

**Program Guidelines for
Alberta Bio Future**

**Strategic Priority Area:
Biomaterials Pursuit Sub-Program**

December 15, 2017

1.0 Purpose and Objectives

1.1 Purpose

Alberta Innovates, Bio Sector (AI), has made significant investments with the goal of accelerating growth in the bioindustrial sector, in alignment with provincial priorities.

Alberta Innovates is building on earlier provincial initiatives in the bioeconomy with **Alberta Bio Future (ABF) and its sub-programs**. This document outlines guidelines for the **ABF Biomaterials Pursuit** sub-program, launched in December 2017.

Past provincial initiatives included: [Recommendations to Build Alberta's Bioeconomy \(BioE Initiative\)](#) (2013), [Alberta Forest Products Roadmap](#) (2011) and [Getting Value from Every Fibre \(Fibre Roadmap\)](#) (2007).

The Fibre Roadmap led to almost \$27 million in grant investments directed at new bioindustrial product development, conversion technologies and market readiness, feedstock development and primary processing. These grants succeeded in:

- Fostering collaborative research and development projects.
- Creating, commercializing or licensing new bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technologies.
- Creating companies and new jobs.
- Encouraging investment by industry.

Alberta Innovates, Bio Sector, and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade jointly created the Alberta Bio Future program to build upon these successes and take advantage of emerging opportunities. The ABF program will end in December 2020.

Alberta Bio Future has been designed to encourage and support collaborations and partnerships between industry, academia, research organizations and government, which focus on new and improved bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technologies.

In line with Government of Alberta and Alberta Innovates priorities, Alberta Bio Future and its sub-programs aim to increase the value derived from Alberta's abundant, renewable biomass resource, and to expand a competitive, sustainable and profitable bioindustrial sector (materials, chemicals and energy) through an integrated program with a strong industry focus. In addition to supporting the forest and agriculture sectors, Alberta Bio Future represents a potentially significant opportunity to diversify the provincial economy.

1.2 Objectives:

- Enhance the value of Alberta's renewable and sustainable biomass resources by generating discoveries and innovations that translate into new and/or improved competitive products and technologies for the Canadian and international marketplace.
- Attract greater investment in bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technology development and commercialization.

- Enhance Alberta’s reputation as a bioindustrial innovation hub.
- Leverage existing funding and support.

Long-Term Outcome:

- Growth in revenue and jobs generated from Alberta-based companies producing new or enhanced biomaterials/bioproducts.
- Growth in international investment in Alberta-based companies producing new or enhanced biomaterials/bioproducts.

Nearer-Term Outcomes:

- Accelerate development and commercialization of new and improved bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technologies by research organizations and industry.
- Increase coordination and integration of organizations working to enhance bioindustrial products in Alberta.
- Increase ability of Alberta companies to access appropriate equipment, infrastructure and knowledge in Alberta to advance their bioindustrial innovations.

1.3 Guiding Principles

- **Value:** Projects must bring demonstrated value to Alberta and Albertans.
- **Rigour and Excellence:** Projects will be subject to rigorous evaluation.
- **Due Diligence:** Alberta Innovates will only invest in high-quality projects supported by a good business case.
- **Co-Funding:** Applicants are expected to contribute an appropriate portion of the total project costs commensurate with the development stage, partners, etc.
- **Collaboration:** Applicants must identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration amongst government, academic and/or private-sector organizations to ensure effective use of resources and to maximize use of highly qualified personnel and infrastructure.
- **Leveraging:** Applicants should identify and pursue opportunities to maximize project financing through leveraging.
- **Multi-Sector Participation:** Alberta Innovates encourages cross-sector participation in the development of innovations. For example, projects involving agriculture, forestry, the oil and gas sectors, as well as downstream users of products, are encouraged.
- **Alignment:** Projects must be aligned with Government of Alberta priorities and the Alberta Innovates Business Plan (<http://albertainnovates.ca/publications/>).

1.4 ABF Biomaterials Pursuit Sub-Program:

The ABF Biomaterials Pursuit sub-program is designed to expand on previous Alberta Innovates initiatives and funding in the bioeconomy, including CNC Challenge 1.0 & 2.0, ABF Research & Innovation, and the Lignin Challenge supported by former Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF).

The ABF Biomaterials Pursuit sub-program will support projects that focus on the development

of new bioindustrial products that use renewable, sustainable biomass, with a focus on agriculture and forestry biomass produced or available in Alberta. This sub-program has a total of \$1.5 million in available funding.

- Project activities will include pre-commercial development, such as:
 - Prototype development.
 - Pilot or scale-up work.
 - Research activity required to advance product development or commercialization.
- Requests for project funds up to \$300,000 will be considered.
- There is a two-step, online application process - Letter of Intent and Full Proposal.

1.5 Eligibility

Projects must:

- Be submitted by:
 - Operating companies or industry groups based in Alberta, or
 - Researchers based in Alberta, and researchers elsewhere conducting projects with a benefit to Alberta.
- Have a direct application to the bioindustrial sector. (**Note:** Bioindustrial products exclude food, feed or pharma products in this sub-program.)
- Develop bioindustrial products and bioindustrial technologies that use renewable, sustainable biomass, with a focus on agriculture and forestry biomass, produced or available in Alberta.
- Focus on developments leading to a competitive advantage for Alberta companies or other direct benefit to Alberta.
- Engage a project team with demonstrated competence, experience and the organizational capacity to successfully complete the project.
- The projects may have already been reviewed, in whole or in part, by another agency.
- The project may have the approval and financial support from other relevant agencies and require additional external funding.
- **Be completed by December 31, 2020.**

2.0 Guidelines for Project Submission

2.1 Process and Deadlines

Proposals are invited from eligible applicants wishing to participate in the **ABF Biomaterials Pursuit** sub-program. Each proposal must be submitted through the [online application system \(https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/aibio/Account\)](https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/aibio/Account).

Proposals will be reviewed and assessed by the Alberta Innovates Selection Committee (which may include external reviewers) for alignment with sub-program purpose and objectives and the evaluation criteria identified in Section 4.0.

AI may request additional documents from the applicant to evaluate the project, such as a business plan, operational plan, proposals submitted to other agencies, etc.

All applicants who submit a proposal will be notified of the decision to fund or not to fund their proposal.

Timelines	Date and time
Biomaterials Pursuit opens to submission of LOIs.	December 15, 2017
Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent	February 1, 2018, 4 p.m. MST
Request for Full Proposal to successful applicants	March 1, 2018
Deadline for submission of Full Proposal	April 11, 4 p.m. MDT
Communication to all applicants about status of proposals	May 23, 2018
Agreements developed with successful applicants.	After May 23, 2018

2.2 Submission of Proposal

Application: The proposal form can be found in the AI [online application system](#), under **Alberta Bio Future (ABF) Biomaterials Pursuit**.

3.0 Project Information

3.1 Eligible Expenses

Category	Eligible Expenses
Personnel – Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time for specific activities on the project, prorated at usual annual salary rates. Time for specific activities for project team members may be acceptable as in-kind contribution.
Personnel – Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside consultants essential to the project.
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to project sites. Travel to give presentations to, or discuss project with stakeholders.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for equipment or the use of equipment directly required for the project.
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of supplies directly required for the project.
Supplemental costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental costs required to deliver the project are eligible. Overhead costs are not eligible.

3.2 Funding Sources

Applicants are expected to contribute an appropriate portion of the total project costs commensurate with the development stage, partners, etc. The applicant contribution may be in

the form of cash or auditable in-kind services or goods.

The applicant must provide written confirmation of other contributions at the Full Proposal stage. The applicant must provide confirmation of receipt of partner contributions/support, including details of the contribution at the agreement stage.

3.3 Progress Reports and Financial Reporting

The applicant must submit one progress report and one financial report, at minimum, in each **12-month period** for projects funded through the ABF Biomaterials Pursuit sub-program, as per the schedule contained in the agreement. A final report and a final financial report will be required **within three months** of project completion.

3.4 Intellectual Property Principles

Intellectual property owned by the applicant must be managed by the applicant or the applicant’s organization. Applicants must ensure that they have sufficient right to intellectual property to be able to implement the project. Ownership of intellectual property arising from projects will be vested with the project applicant.

3.5 Confidentiality

Alberta Innovates is committed to protecting the confidentiality of application details. External experts who act as reviewers must sign a confidentiality agreement.

As a provincial corporation, Alberta Innovates is subject to the protection and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Personal information is collected pursuant to Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it relates to and is necessary for the sub-program. Should you have any questions about the collection of this information, you may contact Ms. Joan Unger, AI, Director of Operations, at 780-450-5081.

4.0 Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated using the following mandatory administrative criteria. If it does not meet all the following criteria, no further evaluation will be conducted.

Mandatory Administrative Criteria	Yes	No
Proposal is received on time.		
Proposal is complete as per the online template.		
Proposal is submitted by an eligible applicant.		
The project fits within the sub-program objectives as outlined in these guidelines.		
The project utilizes Alberta’s biomass as outlined in these guidelines.		

Proposals meeting all the mandatory criteria will be evaluated in the following categories:

No.	Desired Criteria
1	Project Overview
2	Objectives, Milestone and Deliverables
3	Benefits
4	Budget
5	Project Team
	Total Score (Maximum 100)

Contacts:

To inquire about the Alberta Bio Future, Biomaterials Pursuit sub-program, please contact:

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