

Introduction

IMI's *Developing Innovations Program* projects aim to advance applied research and development (R&D) with the following objectives:

- Having the characteristics of a solution to an industry need described and ready for technology development; and
- Validating or demonstrating the potential of emerging technology to solve minerals sector-specific problems.

Areas of Focus

Eligible collaborations include focused projects with specific short- to medium-term objectives, as well as discrete phases in a program of longer-range applied research where there is the potential for significant returns to industry. It is expected these projects will make contributions to next generation mines and mills by developing emerging technologies or applications, or validating “new to mining” technology components [to manage risks and/or lower liabilities].

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the *Developing Innovations Program*, a project must meet the following criteria:

- A letter of support from at least one IMII member company accompanies the preliminary project proposal;
- At least two IMII member companies agree to collaborate in the project;
- At least one IMII member university, polytechnic and/or research organization involved in the project;
- Non-member mineral companies participating in the project are required to join IMII upon final approval of the proposal.

A research organization may be involved in the project as a third-party researcher or developer provided they are a IMII member. A research organization could take the lead on a Developing Innovations project if they could bring additional funding sources to leverage industry commitments.

Project Funding

Funding recipients are primarily universities and polytechnics, and secondarily research organizations and are eligible to receive funding up to \$200,000. Priority will be given to projects lasting up to two years.

- Funding is inclusive of all overhead costs and must not exceed 25% of the total project budget

Examples of eligible expenses:

- Salary of necessary staff for the research project (including students, postdoctoral fellows, technical or professional assistance);
- Laboratory equipment and supplies, including the services of third-party providers if vital to the project;
- Equipment (the total cost of equipment may not represent more than 20% of the total eligible project costs);
- Equipment or facility rental; and
- Dissemination costs (publication costs and other activities).

Federal Agency Funding

Upon approval of the project by IMII's Board of Directors, the team has two months to submit the application to federal agencies should the project be eligible for a grant. If an application is not made, IMII may withhold future payments or not consider future applications from the team.

Intellectual property

For approved *Developing Innovation Program* projects, IMII prepares a research funding agreement which includes provisions for knowledge management and intellectual property (IP), and ensures that it's signed by every project partner within two months of receiving approval.

The guiding principles behind the agreement are as follows:

- Background IP remains the property of its original owner;
- Developed intellectual property may be assigned to project partners whose researchers have made an actual contribution to its creation (in proportion to the percentage of their innovative contributions);
- The project's industry partners should receive an exclusive worldwide royalty-free license for any project developed intellectual property;
- IP developed by a university, polytechnic and/or research organization may lead to profit-sharing or compensation if such provisions are specified in the project agreement's terms and conditions, and the research results can be commercialized; and
- Subject to provisions in the project agreement, research results may be used for academic research and teaching purposes, including publication and student theses, subject to the stipulations in the research funding agreement.