



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

M-ERA-NET CALL 2026

Application Guidelines

**Deadline for submitting pre-proposal:
Noon (Brussels time), May 12 , 2026
Deadline for submitting full-proposal:
Noon (Brussels time), November 18 , 2026**



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DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION FOR THE PRE-PROPOSAL STAGE:

- Duly completed PRIMA Québec application preproposal form (signed and dated). Every section in the form must be filled out.
- Requested M-ERA.NET Pre-Proposal form in English is uploaded to the M-ERA.NET submission tool until submission deadline May 12, 2026, noon Brussels time. Please consult the M-ERA.NET [guide](#) for the procedure and the pre-proposal form can be found on the M-ERA.NET [web page](#).

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION FOR THE FULL-PROPOSAL STAGE:

- Duly completed PRIMA Québec application form (signed and dated). Every section in the form must be filled out.
- Signed support letters from the industrial partners which specify, their role, the benefits that the company expects to derive from the realization of this project and the amounts of money in cash and in kind allocated to direct research expenses and PRIMA Québec management fees.
- Requested M-ERA.NET Full-Proposal form and Annex1 to the Full-Proposal form in English is uploaded to the M-ERA.NET submission tool until submission deadline November 18, 2026, 12:00 noon CET.

Please note:

- Funding will only be awarded upon proof of the following:
 - All additional funding (NSERC, NRC-IRAP or other) has been approved (a copy of the approval must be forwarded to PRIMA);
 - The full M-ERA.NET proposal has been recommended for funding;
 - The other organizations in the M-ERA.NET consortium have obtained their funding;
 - The various parties have drafted and signed an intellectual property agreement before the first grant payment.
- Once the request for additional funding has been submitted, a copy must be sent to PRIMA Québec, **confirmation that the additional funding has been obtained must be sent to PRIMA before January 14, 2027.**
- Partners in the consortium's Québec portion must be members of PRIMA Québec from the time of the submission of the full proposal and until the end of the project if it is funded.

Contacts:

For any additional information, or for assistance regarding the application form, please contact Michel Lefèvre at 514 241-3322.

The PRIMA pre-proposal form must be sent before **May 12, 2026, at 6:00 a.m. Montréal time** in a single file in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat) by email to: lydie.chauvire@prima.ca

PRIMA's full proposal form must be sent by **November 18, 2026, at 6:00 a.m. Montréal time** as a single file in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format by email to: lydie.chauvire@prima.ca



INTRODUCTION

The Government of Québec considers innovation to be an important driver of economic growth. Over the years, the province has managed to position itself favourably on the international research and innovation scene, thanks to major investments by the Government of Québec. Despite fierce international competition, Québec has been able to build a solid research and innovation ecosystem supported by an enviable pool of high-calibre researchers belonging to major international networks, a highly qualified workforce, successful companies, renowned higher education institutions and cutting-edge research centres.

In order to remain in the group of advanced societies and to shine and open up to the world, Québec must ensure the participation of its researchers and organizations in collaborative industrial research projects that will generate the technologies of tomorrow. In addition, in Québec's International Vision, the Government of Québec demonstrates its desire to propel innovation onto international markets. In a context of economic recovery, this vision implies an increased presence of Québec players in these markets.

Calls for international research and innovation projects are among the tools that the Government of Québec has at its disposal to support this international action by Québec players from universities, colleges, institutions and industries who work in the various sectors of research and innovation. To this end, the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie (MEIE) supports PRIMA Québec in its participation in the M-ERA-NET 2026 call as part of M-ERA.NET 3.

The M-ERA.NET 2026 call was launched on March 4, 2026, and 34 funding agencies from 28 countries are participating with a total budget of approximately 39 million euros.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The call for projects pursues the following objectives:

1. Establish partnerships between universities, colleges, institutions and industry in Quebec, outside Quebec and internationally.
2. Increase university-business, international, intersectoral and inter-order research collaborations.
3. Increase the visibility of Québec researchers and their establishments nationally and internationally.
4. Encourage progress, around research and development projects, of researchers capable of occupying a competitive position in the niches of the future for Québec.

The aim of M-ERA.NET is to fund ambitious transnational RTD projects addressing materials research and innovation including materials for low-carbon energy technologies and related production technologies. M-ERA.NET aims to strengthen the contribution of materials R&D to energy-related applications where applicable.



ELIGIBLE CLIENTS

QUÉBEC ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications must be submitted by Québec research establishments. Universities, CCTTs or public research centers¹ are eligible (if the research center is not on the list, please contact a PRIMA advisor to verify its status [public or private] with MEIE). They must allow the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP).

QUÉBEC ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURERS

It is necessary to have at least one company (primarily an SME<250 employees) with a presence in Québec (production or R&D). Businesses outside Québec are not eligible. The participation of partners is the subject of a signed letter of support.

Companies must provide a copy of their francization certificate (**valid at all times, unless the company is registered on the List of companies not complying with the francization process**).

A company or organization is subject if it has had 25 or more employees for more than 6 months. Cégeps and universities (except private colleges) do not have to provide proof of compliance with the francization requirements. If companies do not yet hold this certificate, one of the following valid documents issued by the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) will be accepted:

- an attestation of registration with the OQLF;
- an acknowledgement of receipt of the linguistic situation analysis;
- attestation of program application

If a company finds itself at the [following address](#), it does not comply with the francization process and is therefore ineligible for the program.

Companies doing business in Québec (companies (Québec or outside Québec) with a place of business in Québec), who already have a website, must have their website in French, regardless of the criteria and threshold for compliance with the francization process. Partners outside Québec, who do not do business in Québec, do not have this obligation.

You cannot have related companies in the consortium. Therefore, the subsidiary or the parent company of the Québec company cannot participate in the project with the international partner.

Companies that are majority controlled by a government department or agency are not eligible as industrial partners. Their contributions will be considered as a public contribution. As well contribution coming from municipalities.

Startups are eligible; however, the MEIE may request additional information to ensure the company's involvement in the project and its R and D and production capacities and to be able to implement the benefits of the project.

Hydro-Québec is considered, by default, as a public research center. However, the latter can be considered as an industrialist under certain conditions, see Annex 1 for details.

The MEIE, when analyzing projects recommended for funding, may request additional information from the promoters and companies involved in the project.

¹ The list of recognized eligible public research centers is available at the [following link](#)



INELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Applicants who are in one or more of the following situations are not eligible:

- are registered, provisionally or definitively, in the Registre des entreprises non admissibles aux contrats publics ([RENA](#)). This situation also applies to subcontractors registered with RENA who are expected to carry out work on the project;
- are registered on [the list of companies not compliant with the Francization Process](#), published on the website of the Office québécois de la langue française;
- have failed to meet their obligations during the two years preceding the application for financial assistance, after having been duly served with formal notice in connection with the granting of previous financial assistance by a department or agency of the Gouvernement du Québec
- are Crown corporations or corporations controlled directly or indirectly by a government (provincial or federal) or businesses that are majority-owned by a Crown corporation;
- are under the protection of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (R.S.C. [1985], c. C-36) or the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (R.S.C. [1985], c. B-3);
- have their principal area of business relating to the following:
 - the production or distribution of weapons²;
 - the exploration, extraction, drilling, production and refining related to fossil fuels, such as oil and thermal coal, with the exception of activities aimed at a transition to a low-carbon economy;
 - the operation of games of chance and gambling, for example casinos, bingo halls, gaming terminals;
 - the exploitation of violent games, combat sports involving all living species, racing or other similar activities;
 - sexual exploitation, for example an erotic bar, an escort agency, an erotic massage parlour or a swingers club, the production of pornographic material;
 - the production, sale and services related to the consumption of tobacco or drugs, with the exception of interventions related to cannabis and industrial hemp presented in section 4.1.3 of the 2024-2027 [regulatory framework](#) for the MEIE PSO;

Financial assistance cannot be used to make a payment to any entity in any of the situations described above.

The Ministry reserves the right to refuse to grant financial assistance or to cease payment of financial assistance if the applicant or beneficiary does not meet the high standards of integrity that the public has reason to expect from a beneficiary of financial assistance paid from public funds.

PRIMA QUÉBEC MEMBERSHIP

All industrial organizations, academics or public research centers (Québec participant) participating in a project **must be members in good standing of PRIMA Québec at the time of project submission in**

² For the purposes of implementing the program, a weapon is defined as a product covered in sections 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-7, 2-8, 2-12 and 2-19 of the Guide to Canada's Export Control List (online, 2022-02-09).



the full proposal phase and must remain so throughout the duration of the project if it is accepted for funding.

To become a member of PRIMA Québec: <https://www.prima.ca/en/product/prima-quebec-membership/>

0-50 employees	CAD 325
51-249 employees	CAD 500
250-499 employees	CAD 750
500 employees and (+)	CAD 1 100
Universities	CAD 2 200
CCTT – Public Laboratory	CAD 1 100

STRUCTURE OF THE M-ERA.NET CALL 2026

The objective of the M-ERA.NET Call 2026 is to enable transnational R&D projects between partners receiving funding from regional/national programs.

The call is organized as a 2-step application (Pre- and Full-Proposal). The eligibility of applicants applying for funding will be checked by national/regional funding organizations according to the rules defined by their respective funding programs.

The centralized evaluation of pre-proposals and full-proposals will be carried out by independent international evaluators resulting in a ranking list for each stage.

In stage 1 the M-ERA.NET call consortium will agree on a list of Pre-Proposals invited to submit a Full-Proposal. The decision is based on the ranking list of evaluated Pre-Proposals and available national/regional budgets.

In stage 2 the M-ERA.NET call consortium will agree on a joint selection list based on the ranking list of evaluated Full-Proposals.

The final funding decisions will be made by the national/regional funding organizations.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

All research projects with technological maturity levels³ (TRL) 1-9 are eligible.

The projects are in collaboration with partners from the countries participating in the M-ERA.NET call, there may be partners outside M-ERA.NET consortium. However, **the following conditions must be met**:

- Minimum requirements: Project consortia must consist of at least 3 partners (all requesting funding from a funding organization listed in Annex 3 of the M-ERA.NET guide⁴) from at least 3 different countries (at least 2 EU member state or associated countries⁵) participating in the M-

³ See Annex 2

⁴https://www.m-era.net/lw_resource/datapool/systemfiles/elements/files/fe104c7a-17c3-11f1-9b97-fa163ed847d2/current/document/Guide-for-Proposers_V1.0.pdf

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-atom_en.pdf



ERA.NET Call 2026. In addition to the minimum consortium, the participation of further partners is possible, including applicants not asking for funding (self-funded).

- Coordinator is eligible and requests funding from a funding organization listed in Annex 3 of the M-ERA.NET guide.
- Proposers (SMEs, large companies, academic research groups, universities, public research organisations or other research organisations) must be eligible for funding according to their national/regional regulations (to be checked with funding organisations listed in Annex 3 of the M-ERA.NET guide). **If one or more partner(s) responsible for more than 15% of the total project efforts (measured in persons month) is/are deemed ineligible, the project will not be invited for Pre- or Full-Proposal evaluation.**
- The total effort of one single applicant cannot exceed 60% of the total project efforts (measured in person months) in the proposal.
- **The total effort of applicants from one country cannot exceed 70% of the total project efforts (measured in person months) in the proposal.**
- Proposers must be involved in activities within the eligible TRL range of their respective funding agencies to the relevant Topic. Proposal should overall address appropriate TRLs for selected M-ERA.NET Call 2026 topics. .
- Mandatory proposal forms must be used (provided for download at the [Call 2026 website](#)). The formatting conditions of the proposal forms aim to ensure the equity and fairness of the evaluation. Therefore, any restructuring and change of formatting conditions of proposal forms will result in the formal rejection of the proposal (this includes changing the font and its size, interline interval, spacing, margins, document size, tables, individual sections of the template).
- Proposers must fill in all tables. Incomplete tables will result in a formal rejection of the proposal.
- Proposal must be written in English.
- Proposers must select only one of the M-ERA.NET Call 2026 topics. The topic selected in the proposal template must correspond to the topic selected in the submission tool. In case of discrepancies, the topic selected in the submission tool will prevail.
- Maximum project duration is 36 months.
- Only Proposals recommended to stage 2 by M-ERA.NET after the Pre-Proposal stage will be allowed to submit a Full-Proposal.
- Proposers must provide their respective PIC⁶-numbers in the proposal; proposers without a validated PIC will be able to use a temporary PIC for submission.
- Conflict of Interest: the following individuals are not eligible for proposal submission: M-ERA.NET Steering Board members, researchers affiliated to Russian entities and/or exercising in Russia and researchers from participating Funding Organisations⁷. In addition, proposers cannot act as evaluators of the M-ERA.NET Call 2026.

Typically, small to medium sized consortia (3-5 partners on average per proposal) are expected. However, there is no upper limit and consortia may involve as many partners as necessary for a convincing

⁶ Participant Identification Code: If you want to participate in a project proposal your organization needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Please find details here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

⁷ As an exception, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH (JÜLICH) is eligible to apply since measures were already established to avoid any possible conflict of interest with Project Management Jülich as a beneficiary of M-ERA.NET 3, which is a largely independent unit within the research centre Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH (JÜLICH).



proposal, ensuring that all participants have a valid role. Each partner within the consortium should clearly add value to the objectives of the proposed project. Depending on the nature of the project, each partner in the consortium must demonstrate how he/she will exploit the expected results.

National/regional funding rules apply. Therefore, in some cases only certain topics, TRLs or types of organizations are eligible (e.g., some national/regional programs fund only industrial but no academic partners, low/high TRLs). It is highly recommended to contact the respective national/regional funding organisation before proposal submission.

The projects must demonstrate a balanced participation of the Québec and foreign parties throughout their development; a **financial contribution in cash totalling at least 20% of the eligible expenses in Québec is required from the Québec tenant community and a contribution in cash or in kind totalling at least 30% of the overall expenses of the M-ERA.NET consortium project is required for all the project's foreign partners.**

The financial assistance from MEIE will take the form of a non-repayable and non-recurring contribution of up to 50% of the eligible expenses of the Québec part, up to \$200,000 (management fees and IRC included) over three years per project. Other contributions must be demonstrated (official signed letters specifying the amounts granted for the realization of the project).

A consortium agreement between the project partners is recommended for funded projects based on national/regional funding rules. However, the principles of the agreement should already be clear when submitting the proposal. The purpose of the consortium agreement is to clarify:

- the responsibilities of the partners;
- decision processes inside the project;
- management of any change of partners;
- how to exploit and/or commercialize the results (for each partner);
- IPR issues.

A template for the consortium agreement can be found at: <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>

Project Budget

No overall limits have been defined on M-ERA.NET level but national/regional limits regarding the available funding may apply. Budget shares in project consortia have to be in line with eligibility criteria.

Duration of Projects

The maximum project duration must not exceed 36 months. National/regional limits regarding the duration of projects will apply.

Partner Search Tool

To facilitate the process of forming research consortia, a partner search tool is available here: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/partnersearch>.

PRIORITY THEMES

Horizontal aspects must be integrated into the project's concept, expected outcomes, and delivery strategy. Their implementation should be evidenced through concrete measures, clearly assigned responsibilities, and verifiable deliverables.



Horizontal objectives for the Call 2026:

- **Support the European Green Deal by increasing attention to clean energy technologies and future batteries:** M-ERA.NET aims to strengthen the contribution of materials RTD for clean energy-related applications, energy generation and harvesting, energy storage (battery technologies), electrolyzers and fuel cells. M-ERA.NET will support the transition towards circular economy by addressing aspects like eco-design, design for recycling, durability of products, process efficiency with reduced energy and materials consumption, resulting e.g. in light-weight products.
- **Support the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** M-ERA.NET will contribute to a wider public debate on the impact of materials research and its potential to achieve the SDGs. In particular, M-ERA.NET will support SDG 3 ("Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"), SDG 7 ("Affordable and clean energy") through fostering research on sustainable energy storage technology, SDG 9 ("Industrial innovation and infrastructure") by upgrading the technological capabilities of industrial sectors, and SDG 12 ("Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns") through an environmentally sound management of natural resources and reduced waste generation.
- **Creating Socio-ecological benefits in the context of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI):** M-ERA.NET calls will address EU areas of socio-ecological relevance, illustrating the leveraging effects materials research and innovation have on areas that reflect meaningful societal needs. M-ERA.NET will develop responsible research and innovation processes to systematically address socio-ecological, ethical and political dimensions of material research, development and use. As part of this, M-ERA.NET requires that funded researchers engage with the social, ethical, political, environmental or cultural dimensions of their proposed research. Please refer to the topic descriptions and the M-ERA.NET RRI guidelines.
- **Support for the innovation chain, strengthening interdisciplinarity and widening:** Making best use of the interdisciplinary network the calls in M-ERA.NET will facilitate the generation of knowledge along the innovation chain, from excellent science and research to innovative industrial applications. M-ERA.NET as a platform uses an integrative approach across disciplines and across application fields, making the initiative an attractive and efficient tool for transnational joint projects that were unlikely to be realised before. Measures to ensure gender balance in the project consortia should also be considered.
- .
- **Digitalisation and data management:** M-ERA.NET aims to integrate digital technologies and data management frameworks to accelerate technological transfer to the market. Inclusion of digital tools and data spaces from design to validation are encouraged. An open operability and data sharing secure approach will encourage international cooperation in the field. In line with the principle "as open as possible, as close as necessary" it will ensure the provision of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) results and supporting the need for uniform data structures, uniform data processing (exchange, evaluation, further processing) and uniform concepts for handling materials data in the so-called digital workflows across all borders. Special attention will be given to ethical considerations, security measures, and fostering inclusivity to ensure responsible and impactful digital transformation.

The following six topics are defined for the Call 2026:



1. Materials for energy storage and distribution systems
2. Materials for energy conversion
3. Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces
4. Innovative functional materials with defined architectures
5. Materials addressing environmental challenges
6. Next generation materials for electronics

General Considerations

- In general, a special focus on materials science, processing, and engineering that contributes to the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal is strongly recommended. Sustainability aspects of the targeted solutions and/or materials must be addressed in the proposal. Proposals should avoid as far as possible the use of hazardous compounds and demonstrate that the materials and processes involved in the research will be safe and will have a minimum impact on the environment. Unless expressly justified, proposals should comply with the open data science directive from the EC.
- Unless expressly justified, proposals should comply with the open data science directive from the EC. It is expected that proposals include intellectual property rights management and proper knowledge transfer and exploitation strategy. It is expected that part of the deliverables of the project include open-source codes, data management and curation methodology, and/or demonstrative examples of the technologies proposed. Measures to ensure gender balance in the project consortia should also be considered.
- Issues of societal concerns should be addressed in a systematic way and following the M-ERA.NET RRI guidelines (Annex 5 of the M-ERA.NET guide).
- Measures to ensure gender balance in the project consortia should also be considered.

In keeping with its strategic plan, PRIMA Québec recommends the submission of applications concerning the development of advanced materials applied to Québec's key sectors, such as transportation and infrastructure, energy, the environment, electronics, health and chemistry.

Technologies targeted by this call for projects include primarily:

- **New materials:** Polymers, elastomers, biomaterials, metals, innovative fillers, cellulosic filaments, natural and synthetic fibers, nanomaterials, quantum material, etc.
- **Formulated materials or high-performance finished or semi-finished products:** Composites (TD or TP), rubbers, alloys, ceramics, smart textiles, flexible materials, membranes, thin layers, coatings, biocompatible materials, encapsulation, sensors, quantum technologies, etc.
- **Implementation processes, scaling and new characterization techniques:** Additive manufacturing and 3D printing, modification and surface treatment, micro/nanofabrication, tools, new characterization tools, modelling and simulation, shaping processes, quantum calculus, etc.
- **Use of artificial intelligence with advanced materials** for production, integration or implementation processes or characterization technique.
- Innovations in **quantum technologies** for: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum materials, quantum metrology and detection. Proposed projects should contribute to the development and commercialization of: quantum computing and quantum communication



components; quantum technologies for applications in life sciences, sustainable development, transport and logistics.

FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROJECT

Eligible expenses are those that involve the Québec team's research activities and include project-related costs in Québec. No additional financial assistance will be granted for any cost overrun regarding an approved project.

The following expenses will be eligible when justified and directly attributable to the project.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES - DIRECT PROJECT COSTS

The following expenses will be eligible if deemed reasonable, justifiable and directly attributable to the project:

- Salaries, wages and benefits that are not the subject of any other public financial support (students, postdoctoral fellows, assistants and research professionals, technicians, etc.)
 - Amounts relating to the release of university professors to carry out activities within the framework of projects cannot appear in this expenditure item, unless the establishment confirms by letter, the actual cost of the period of release of the researcher from his usual responsibilities.
 - Salaries including benefits of professors newly recruited by an academic institution based on recognized expertise can be covered for a maximum period of three years, as long as they are part of a research chair dedicated to answering the needs of an emerging industry in Québec. These chairs also ensure the generation of highly qualified personnel to integrate into the workforce in these key industrial sectors.
 - It is the actual cost and not selling price that must be indicated.
- Student scholarships
- Materials, consumables and supplies
 - Consumables cannot be the object of commercial transactions between stakeholders (for example, purchased from one of the industrial partners)
- Purchase and/or rental of equipment
 - Purchase: less \$25k per equipment before tax otherwise must be rented
 - Put only the cost of renting the equipment, does not include the final amount to purchase the equipment.
 - The purchase and rental of equipment represent a maximum of 25% of the total eligible expenses.
- Travel and living expenses for Québec researchers and students (airfare, local transportation, accommodations, meal expenses and visa costs). Travel and living expenses in Québec and abroad for Québec researchers and students must not exceed **15%** of all eligible expenses (up to a maximum of 5% of all eligible expenses in Québec). When calculating the grant, only amounts that correspond to the current Government of Québec rates will be considered (see Appendix 3).
- Animal facilities and platform-related costs
- Costs related to subcontracting contracts



- Subcontractors must be mentioned and must not be registered in the register of companies not eligible for public contracts (RENA).
- Subcontractors must be systematically listed in the application form. If the subcontractor is not known, please mention possible subcontractors.
- Professional fees
 - External services must be justified and represent a small portion of the budget.
- Knowledge dissemination costs
 - Please mention conferences and their relevance to the project.
- Intellectual property management fees
- Costs related to the use of research and innovation results and intellectual property protection (publication costs, scientific and technological dissemination costs, workshop and seminar administration costs, international patent fees, etc.). Costs of maintaining or commercializing the IP are not eligible.
- Legal document translation and design costs for partnership consolidations (maximum \$10,000).

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Ineligible expenses will include, among others:

- Sums related to the release of university professors to carry out activities within the framework of the projects cannot be included in this item of expenditure;
- Salaries of university researchers who are currently being paid by their institution or by a government granting agency are not eligible expenses;
- Salaries for administrative support staff;
- Administrative costs are not eligible;
- Travel expenses for the Québec team's researchers and students attending events not directly related to the project;
- Accommodations, travel and living expenses for foreign researchers and students;
- Support expenditures for the programming of activities;
- Equipment purchases priced above \$25,000 before taxes;
- Equipment maintenance costs;
- Expenses for filing and maintaining intellectual property;
- Recurring costs such as annual subscription fees and software upgrade fees;
- Expenses for project planning activities, or any commercial, economic or technology transfer activity, including
 - Detailed market research;
 - Detailed financial studies;
 - Technological demonstrations;
 - Product or process testing and validation;
 - Product certification;
 - Market expansion;
 - Marketing plans;
 - Promotional activities;



- Regulatory issues beyond the scope of intellectual property management and use, etc.;
- The sale of samples, products, equipment and technology;
- Any building purchase, sale or construction;
- Licensing;
- Joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, etc.
- Any expense not directly related to the project;
- The cost of establishing an on-line presence or web hosting;
- Support expenditures for the programming of activities; Refundable federal and provincial taxes;
- Land acquisition expenses;
- Building acquisition, construction or expansion expenses;
- Depreciation expenses;
- Grant funds already received from the following:
 - Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), excluding the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF);
 - Other MEIE financial assistance programs.

INDIRECT COSTS OF RESEARCH

Additional operating expenses will be eligible for **universities, CCTTs and affiliated hospitals**. A maximum rate of **27% prorated to the MEIE contribution** will be applied to the following five eligible cost items included in the direct project-related costs:

- Salaries and fringe benefits;
- Student scholarships;
- Materials, consumables and supplies, including animal facility and platform-related fees;
- Equipment purchases or leasing (maximum \$25,000 before taxes per purchased equipment);
- Travel and living expenses.

Note: The other financial contributors to the project must pay an indirect research expenses rate on their contribution at least equivalent to that of the MEIE for the project (27%). In other words, all the funders must pay the full costs of the research, notably by paying the indirect research expenses.

COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING

PSO-International will accept a public co-funding for eligible cash expenses from multiple sources (please contact a PRIMA advisor to ensure the eligibility of additional funding), including but not limited to:

- Federal departments and agencies, including federal granting councils.
- Provincial and municipal departments and agencies, along with Québec research funds.

Financial assistance under the PSO-international will not be combined with contributions from any other MEIE program, including MITACS grants, which will not be accepted as co-funding for the financing package.

Co-funding sources must be presented in the financial package, a copy of the request for additional financing must be provided when it is submitted. **The copy of acceptance of the complementary funding must be sent to PRIMA before January 14, 2027.**



It is necessary to specify in the request for additional funding that an application to PRIMA has been submitted and the supplementary financing budget must include funding from PRIMA.

Complementary funding already obtained that does not specify PRIMA Québec and the current project cannot be used.

Combined assistance from municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as from partners with intervention funds financed by these levels of government, will not exceed **80%** of all project-related expenses. The assistance considered in this calculation will involve project-related grants, loans and tax incentives.

Companies must provide a minimum **cash** contribution equal to **20%** of eligible expenses.

MANAGEMENT COSTS

PRIMA's management costs are shared between the manufacturers and the MEIE. It is the responsibility of the funding applicant to inform industrial partners of PRIMA Québec's management fees. The combined management fees (5%) of the MEIE and the industrial partners are a maximum of \$50,000. **The industrial portion of the management fees + taxes will be invoiced to the project promoter.**

- Industrial partners involved in the project must contribute to the management fees of PRIMA Québec for a total amount of 3% of the amount of research mandate or \$30,000 max (excluding taxes).
- MEIE management fees are 2% or \$20,000 max.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

Preparing Funding Applications

PRIMA Québec recognizes that applicants to its calls for projects may use these new tools at various stages of preparing a funding application (e.g., structuring ideas, conducting literature reviews, revising, summarizing, or translating texts). However, applicants remain ultimately responsible for the entire content of their funding application. By submitting a funding application, they assume full responsibility for its content. One of the best practices outlined in the Politique sur la conduite responsable en recherche calls for "promoting a climate of integrity, accountability, and public trust in research". Applicants using generative AI tools in preparing a funding application should therefore do so responsibly, notably by referring to relevant guidelines. Particular attention should be paid to the proper recognition of contributions and the risk of plagiarism.

Evaluation of funding applications

Members of evaluation committees are not permitted to insert the content of a funding application, in whole or in part, into a generative AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, DeepL, Bard, etc.). This prohibition is based on the need to protect the intellectual property rights of applicants, their privacy, and the confidentiality of their data.

M-ERA.NET

M-ERA.NET does not prohibit the use of AI but highlights that applicants accept the full responsibility for the whole content, including text generated or refined by AI. Special care should be taken when AI is used for novel concepts, inventions, or IP-sensitive content, as using external AI tools may create confidentiality or patentability risks. In addition, applicants should ensure that the AI tools used comply with data protection and confidentiality requirements (e.g. GDPR).



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

An agreement governing conditions for the management of intellectual property must be concluded among all partners (companies, universities, research centres) before financing is awarded.

Application files will be accepted for evaluation even if an intellectual property agreement is not available at the time the proposal is submitted. **Nonetheless, the application file must present a broad outline of the sharing of intellectual property under consideration.**

Please note that this agreement must be signed no later than one year after the announcement of the result; otherwise, the file will be closed and will have to be resubmitted in a subsequent evaluation round.

COMMUNICATIONS

Please note that the information given in the identification sheet section as well as the amount of the subsidy are public data and can be used by the MEIE and PRIMA Quebec for promotional purposes.

If your project is approved for funding, the ministry may reserve the right to a first communication. **Please communicate with PRIMA before any first communication** about the project.

PROJECT SELECTION

The M-ERA.NET selection process will be a 2-step procedure: Pre-Proposal and Full-Proposal. M-ERA.NET aims at providing a transparent, fast and straight forward assessment of the submitted proposals.

Pre-Proposal

Requested M-ERA.NET Pre-Proposal form in English is uploaded to the M-ERA.NET submission tool until submission deadline May 12, 2026, noon Brussels time.

The pre-proposals will be evaluated by a jury selected by M-ERA.NET according to the rules specified in the M-ERA.NET guide.

After the Pre-Proposal selection meeting of the involved funding organizations, the selection of Pre-Proposal results in one of the recommendations, to be communicated to the applicants:

- Recommended for submitting the Full-Proposal
- Not recommended

The results of the Pre-Proposals stage will be provided with feedback emails sent by the call secretariat after the Pre-Proposal selection meeting to the project coordinators and all applicants.

Full-Proposal

Requested M-ERA.NET Full-Proposal form and Annex1 to the Full-Proposal form in English is uploaded to the M-ERA.NET submission tool until submission deadline November 18, 2026, 12:00 CET.

Full proposals will be evaluated by a jury selected by M-ERA.NET according to the rules specified in the M-ERA.NET guide. At the 2026 call coordination meeting, all full proposals will be discussed and unanimously recommended or not recommended for funding based on the results of the assessment and the available budget of all funding agencies.



As a result of the M-ERA.NET central evaluation Full-Proposals will either be:

- Recommended for funding or
- Not recommended for funding

The results of the Full-Proposals stage including a compiled peer review report (anonymised result of central international peer review process excl. scoring) will be provided by the call secretariat via feedback emails to the project coordinators and all applicants.

PROJECT APPROVAL

Funding recommendations and assessment reports will be forwarded to the MINISTER, in accordance with the agreement. The MINISTER may then approve projects and award co-funding according to the established parameters or refuse the co-funding of certain projects while specifying the problematic components that led to the refusal.

Project funding approval will be confirmed through an award letter that specifies the terms and conditions surrounding accountability.

PROJECT TRACKING

The annual activity report must include a progress report (scientific and financial) containing updated information on every active project.

CONTACT PERSON

For further information or assistance in writing the application file, do not hesitate to contact Michel Lefèvre: 514 241-3322, michel.lefevre@prima.ca

Applications must be sent in one file in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat) by email to: lydie.chauvire@prima.ca, 514 834-2052

CALL FOR PROJECTS CALENDAR

Dates	Steps
March 4, 2026	Launch of the Call
March 18, 2026, at 12:00, Brussels time	M-ERA.NET- Webinar
March, 24, 2026 at 10:00	PRIMA Québec, Webinar
May 12, 2026, at noon, Brussels time	Deadline for submission of: a) Pre-Proposals and b) National/regional Funding Applications, if necessary
Early of October 2026	Feedback to applicants
November 18, 2026, at noon, Brussels time	Deadline for submission of: a) Full-Proposals and b) National/regional Funding Applications, if necessary
Early February 2027	Tentative communication of selection of Full-Proposals recommended for funding
February 2027	Contract negotiations for selected proposals on national/regional level
March - May 2027	Start of funded projects



APPENDIX 1 - HYDRO-QUEBEC

Hydro-Quebec is considered by default to be a public research center.

However, Hydro-Quebec plays an extremely structuring role in the innovation ecosystem in electricity production and distribution, a sector where it is a major client in a context of monopoly. Because of this unique situation, the MEIE authorizes Hydro-Quebec to be considered as an industrial partner in research projects in partnership with InnovÉÉ, PRIMA and PROMPT if the following criteria are met.

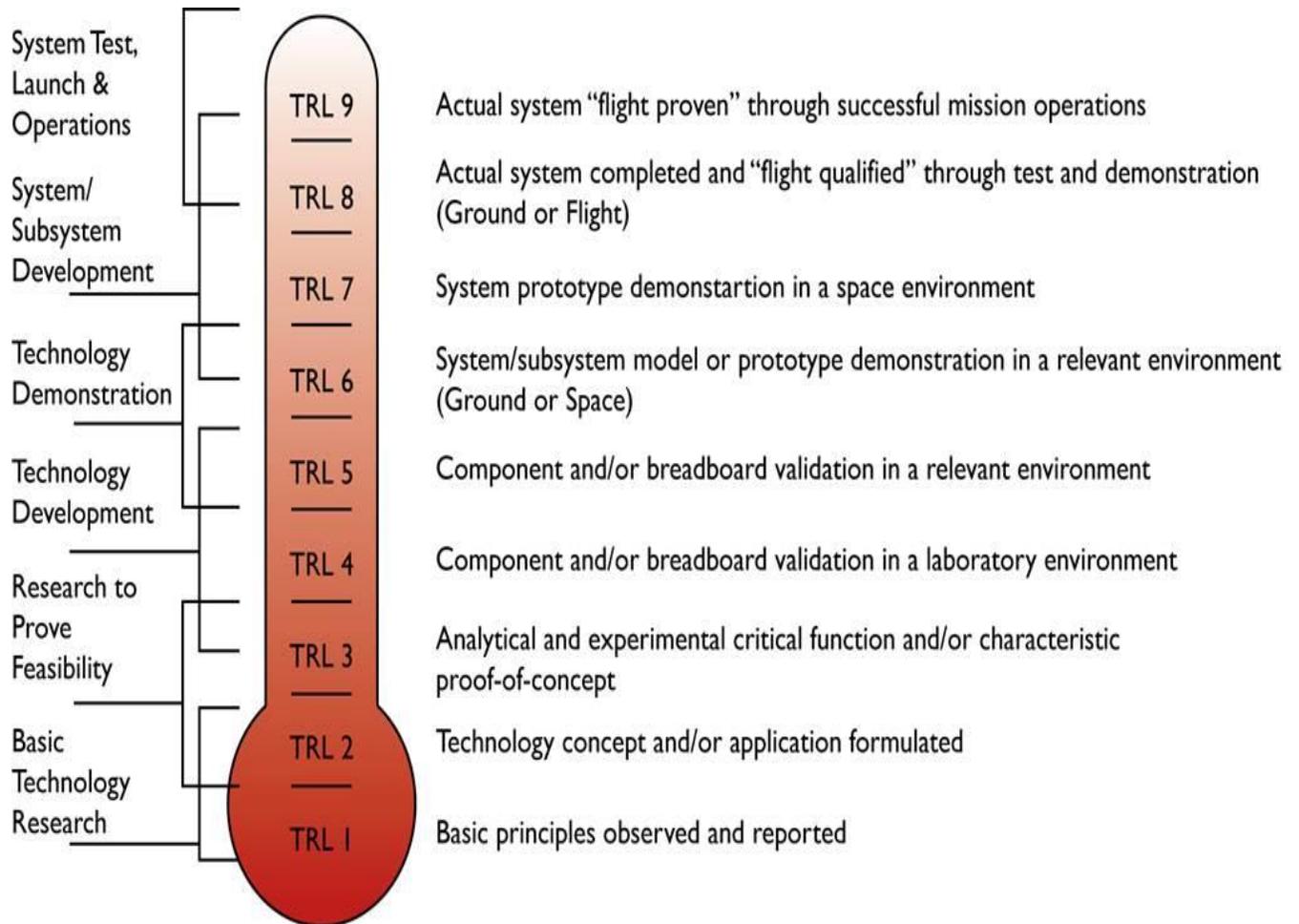
1. Themes:
 - Field of production, transport and distribution of electricity.
2. Partnership:
 - At least one Quebec company other than Hydro-Quebec must be involved in the project.
 - The Quebec company must derive significant benefits from the partnership, notably an equitable sharing of the IP.
3. Structuring and strategic nature of the projects:
 - To be eligible, projects involving Hydro-Quebec must be “structuring” and aim at “solving problems of a strategic nature for Quebec.” In this sense, projects whose spin-offs will allow above all the continuous improvement of Hydro-Quebec’s operations are not eligible.

These project eligibility criteria must be analyzed by the evaluation committee and appear in the report submitted to MEIE.

Apart from this exception, all other PSO-International standards must be respected.



APPENDIX 2 - DEFINITION OF DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS (TRL)



Graphic inspired by the document: Space Systems - Definition of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and their criteria of assessment, ISO 16,290.

The ISO16290 standard is available for consultation at the offices of PRIMA Quebec.



APPENDIX 3 - TRAVEL EXPENSES

TRAVEL EXPENSES IN QUEBEC

Travel expenses refer to costs incurred by a person travelling outside of his or her usual work territory.

This appendix will cover travel expenses regarding certain modes of transportation, hotel accommodations and restaurant expenses. Other travel expenses, or reimbursements in excess of those established, may be authorized if necessary, but only when documented. Barring exceptional circumstances, the methods chosen must demonstrate due regard for cost saving.

The BENEFICIARY must comply with the “Directive sur les frais remboursables lors d’un déplacement et autres frais inhérents,” available on the *Conseil du trésor* website at the following address: <http://www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/publications/secretariat/>.

On the agreement signature date, these guidelines prescribed the following rates:

Transportation

More economical forms of public transportation must be prioritized over personal vehicles.

With regard to personal vehicles, the following rates will be eligible according to the applicable kilometre during the BENEFICIARY’s fiscal year:

Annual Kilometre	Rates
1 st instalment: 1 to 8,000 km	\$0.645/km
2 nd instalment: More than 8,000 km	\$0.570/km

If the appropriate public transportation is available but the BENEFICIARY opts for a personal vehicle, the eligible rate will be reduced to \$0.161 per kilometre travelled.



Hotel Accommodations

The following maximum daily allowance for hotel accommodations will apply.

City	Maximum Allowance	
	Low Season ⁸	High Season ⁹
City of Montréal territory	\$161	\$177
Quebec City territory	\$135	
The cities of Laval, Gatineau, Longueuil, Lac-Beauport and Lac-Delage	\$130	\$140
Establishments located elsewhere in Quebec	\$106	\$111
All other establishments	\$101	

These rates are based on the *Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor* guidelines and may vary.

These maximum amounts do not include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Quebec Sales Tax (QST), or the accommodation tax, which will be reimbursed where applicable.

Restaurant Expenses

The following maximum daily allowance for restaurant expenses will be applied:

	Applicable Rate
Breakfast	\$14,95
Lunch	\$20,62
Dinner	\$31,10
Total	\$66,65

These rates are based on the *Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor* guidelines and may vary.

The rates shown above including taxes and service.

⁸ From November 1 to May 31

⁹ From June 1 to October 31



TRAVEL EXPENSES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

This section covers expenses incurred outside Quebec for programs that include these costs.

City/Country	Maximum Allowance	
	Accommodations Per Day In CAD	Meals Per Day In CAD
CANADA (OUTSIDE QUEBEC)		
Calgary	\$166	\$50
Charlottetown	\$148	\$50
Edmonton	\$115	\$50
Halifax	\$136	\$50
Moncton	\$148	\$50
Ottawa	\$148	\$50
Regina	\$108	\$50
Saskatoon	\$102	\$50
St. John's (Newfoundland and Labrador)	\$159	\$50
Toronto	\$184	\$60
Vancouver	\$184	\$55
Victoria	\$184	\$50
Winnipeg	\$102	\$50
Other cities	\$102	\$50
AMERICA		
	In USD	In USD
Atlanta	\$120	\$50
Boston	\$192	\$50
Chicago	\$130	\$50
Dallas	\$120	\$50
Detroit	\$120	\$50
Los Angeles	\$120	\$50
Miami	\$120	\$50
New York	\$192	\$60
Philadelphia	\$120	\$50
San Francisco	\$160	\$50
Seattle	\$120	\$50
Washington, D.C.	\$120	\$50
Other cities	\$120	\$50
Brazil	\$123	\$40
Mexico	\$177	\$43
EUROPE		
	Local currency	Local currency
Germany	€137	€60
Belgium	€137	€54
Spain	€161	€59
France	€174	€62
Italy	€218	€52
Luxembourg	€125	€52
Netherlands	€111	€61
United Kingdom	£139	£51
Switzerland	209 Francs	92 Francs



City/Country	Maximum Allowances	
	Accommodation Per Day	Meals Per Day
SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES	In USD	In USD
Denmark	\$105	\$65
Iceland	\$153	\$69
Norway	\$114	\$78
Sweden	\$127	\$55
Finland	Local currency €125	Local currency €71
NEAR EAST		
	In USD	
Israel	\$219	\$80
ASIA	In USD	In USD
China	\$145	\$48
South Korea	\$159	\$57
India	\$190	\$38
Japan	\$164	\$89

These rates are based on the *Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor* guidelines and may vary.

These maximum amounts do not include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Quebec Sales Tax (QST), the accommodation tax, or any other tax in effect within the relevant countries, which will be reimbursed where applicable.

Stated amounts are based on the US dollar, notwithstanding Canada and countries that use the Euro. Local currencies are used for information purposes only.

Please contact us for any other destination.

Support documents, including receipts and proof of payment, will be required and must be kept by the applicant for possible auditing purposes.