FABrIC

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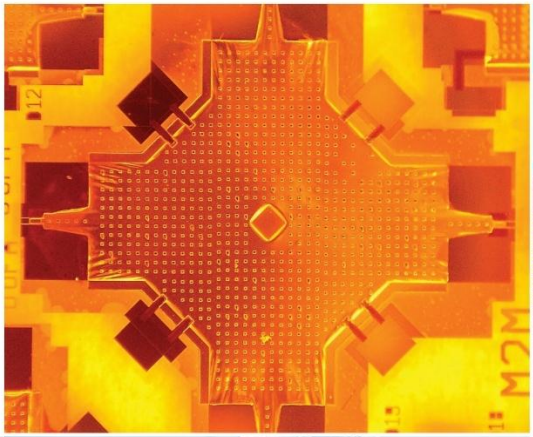
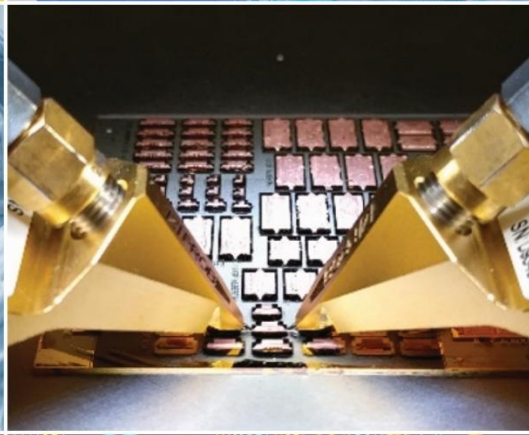
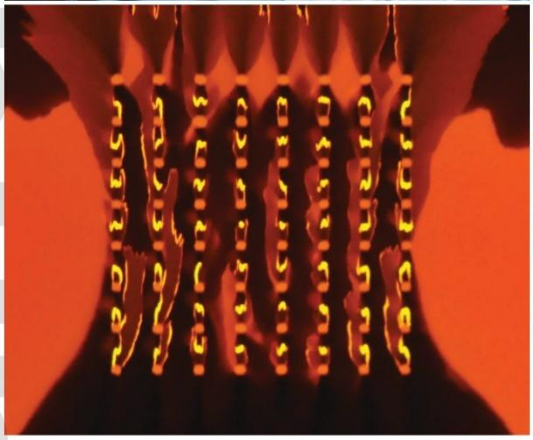
Fabrication Process Development Challenge Round 2 Guide

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FABrIC is a five-year, $217M project to secure Canada's future in semiconductors. FABrIC lowers barriers faced by Canadian companies to develop semiconductor manufacturing processes, create semiconductor Internet-connected products and services (IoT) and export into global markets.

FABrIC is building the national ecosystem and fostering collaboration between industry, not-for-profits, academics and government and leveraging Canada's technological reputation, strengths and existing assets.

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Over its 40-year history, CMC Microsystems (CMC) has been at the forefront of technological change, managing federal and provincial government investments to introduce advanced technology, support research and impact Canada's industrial high-tech landscape.

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FABrIC Fabrication Process Development Challenge – Round 2 Guide

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To download a copy of this publication in French: fabricinnovation.ca/fr

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Introduction

FABrIC is a five-year, $217M project to help secure Canada's future in semiconductors.

Semiconductors power digital economies and are enablers of economic growth. However, there have been significant changes in the global semiconductor landscape over the past few years, driven by supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and recent geopolitical shifts. Governments around the world have made unprecedented investments to bolster their semiconductor industries, to onshore manufacturing and stimulate research and product development in strategic technologies. Canada also has a generational opportunity to bolster our position in the global semiconductor market and benefit from growth in this sector.

To compete, we believe that we must make strategic investments that accelerate the development and commercialization of technologies and products where Canada has significant capability and global opportunities.

Call to Industry and Academics in Canada

Fabrication Challenges are calls to Canadian industry and academics to leverage and enhance the prototyping and manufacturing capacity of domestic fabrication facilities and enable the design, development and commercialization of novel made-in-Canada advanced sensors and other semiconductor products. The calls support strategic areas including Electrified Vehicles, Clean Tech/Energy, Agri-Tech, Healthcare/Biotech, Digital Technologies (AI, 5/6 G data com, etc.), Advanced Manufacturing, Ocean and Marine and Future Natural Resources.

The main objectives of these calls are to:

- Increase the participation and growth of Canadian SMEs (<500 employees) that are developing made-in-Canada products using made-in-Canada semiconductors
- Grow the level of Canadian semiconductor content in key end sector markets
- Increase the development and utilization of Canadian skills and semiconductor technologies, and
- Provide overall economic benefits to Canada through job creation, product and IP commercialization and sustainable revenue generation.

FABrIC's strategic objectives:

- **NEW ADVANCED SENSOR AND SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTS.** Foster the growth and expansion of companies developing and commercializing advanced sensors and other semiconductor products in Canada targeted at the rapidly growing and important semiconductor market, with direct applications in sectors that are of strategic national importance.

- **CANADIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.** Create Canadian intellectual property (IP) and commercialize this IP for the benefit of Canada.

- **ENHANCE** national security and resiliency in the supply of critical semiconductor products and technologies by creating enhanced supply chains with trusted Canadian partners and a larger pool of highly trained specialists in semiconductor product design and fabrication technologies.

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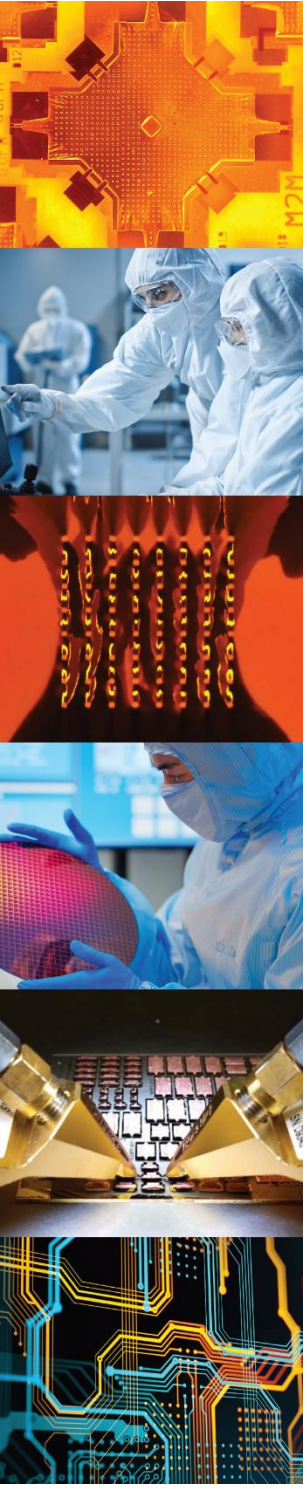

Round 2 Fabrication Process Development Challenge Themes

The Round 2 Challenge call is specifically focused in two areas:

1) **Expanding and leveraging Canadian Research Institute commercial prototyping capability—including MEMS, Compound Semiconductors, Quantum and Photonics processes.**
2) **Silicon Photonics-related processes**

Semiconductors are a key enabler of the modern age. Their market is estimated to grow to over $1 trillion USD by 2030. Supply chain issues during the recent COVID-19 epidemic highlighted how critical semiconductors are for many application sectors including defence, automotive, healthcare, communications, consumer products, manufacturing, smart cities/homes, agri-tech, ocean and marine, natural resources and more.

Canada has a generational opportunity to expand its presence in this strategic and rapidly growing global market.

Canadian Research Institutes possess world-class fabrication capabilities in key foundational semiconductor areas such as MEMS, compound semiconductors, quantum, and photonics. These capabilities include advanced process technologies using materials such as GaN, InP, and SiN, as well as laser based and other emerging device platforms. FABrIC seeks to create, improve, and enhance SME access to these processes—empowering companies to build made-in-Canada products using made-in-Canada semiconductors. This will increase the security of Canada's supply chain, expand the national commercial footprint and elevate Canada's influence in global technology markets.

Canada's rich legacy in telecommunications has created world-leading capability in silicon photonics. This heritage, together with the advanced semiconductor processing capabilities of our Research Institutes, will position Canada as leader in the rapidly growing silicon photonics sector as it increasingly forms the backbone of the internet and AI datacenter ecosystem, as well as many emerging aerospace, consumer and defence applications.

This Call is to stimulate Canadian companies to develop and commercialize silicon photonics and create made-in-Canada products using made-in-Canada semiconductor processes. Funding is available for organizations aligned with FABrIC's strategic objectives, that are driving made-in Canada technologies to service strategic end sectors and working to create long term positive impact on the national economy and sovereignty.

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Funding Opportunities

FABrIC will provide up to $1M in non-repayable funding to reimburse Ultimate Recipients up to 40% of eligible project expenses*. Reimbursements are paid quarterly, based on actual eligible project costs that are incurred and paid by the Ultimate Recipients.

Ultimate Recipients must provide funding for the remaining project costs. Stacking of funding from other government sources is allowed within stacking limits (see Funding Stacking Limits, below). Other sources of government funding include non-repayable grants, loans and re-payable contributions, loan guarantees, equity investments and Federal and Provincial tax credits (e.g. SR&ED).

Management Fees: Each project will have a management fee of 2.5% of funding to be paid to CMC Microsystems. The fees are to be used to directly support activities of the FABrIC team in administering the program and facilitating the work of the project participants in the network.

Note: In exceptional cases, funding of up to $1.5M may be considered, not to exceed 40% of eligible project expenses. Please contact us for exceptional requests at challenges@fabricinnovation.ca.

Definitions

- "**Lead Organization**" means the organization leading the project proposal application process, seeking funding through FABrIC, the FABrIC main point of contact and, if successful, the organization that ultimately becomes the "Lead Ultimate Recipient" in the Ultimate Recipient Agreement, responsible for overall management of the project. The Lead Organization must be a FABrIC member.

- "**Co-Lead Organization**" means an organization that is seeking funding from FABrIC and who is signing onto the Ultimate Recipient Agreement with a Lead Organization. Up to 3 Co-Leads per application is acceptable for this Challenge Call. Co-Lead Organizations must also be FABrIC members.

- "**Collaborator**" means an organization that is not a signatory to the Ultimate Recipient Agreement and is not seeking funding from FABrIC, but (1) is included in a project work plan and is responsible for project activities outlined in a project proposal and/or (2) is making an in-kind contribution to a project that enables completion of project activities. Up to 6 Collaborators per application are acceptable for this Challenge Call.

- "**Ultimate Recipient Agreement**" means the agreement that will eventually confirm a successful proposal and be signed by the Lead Organization, setting out the terms and conditions of the proposed and approved Project.

- "**Ultimate Recipient**" means one or more Lead/Co-Lead Organizations who receive funding and carry out Eligible Projects as part of a Challenge Project.

* Refer to FABrIC Eligible Project Expenses Guide

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Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Process

- A complete Expression of Interest must be submitted through the FABrIC Challenges Portal, hosted on the Blackbaud platform.
- You must create a Blackbaud account to enter your Expression of Interest.
- The Expression of Interest template posted on the FABrIC Website is for reference only.
- The EOI Attestation and Signature template must be completed and uploaded into the portal.

Key Dates

- **February 2, 2026** – Round 2 Fabrication Challenge Call – Portal open for submission
- **March 2, 2026**, 9:00 pm EDT – Deadline for Submission of EOIs
- **No later than March 30, 2026** – Successful applicants will be notified and invited to submit a full proposal
- **April 2026** – Submission of full proposal
- **June 2026** – Notification of results to applicants

FABrIC Challenge Support

FABrIC Challenge Support provides support to Ultimate Recipients. This includes access to CMC's fabrication and packaging services, including support for the development of PDKs, aggregated multi-project wafer runs, which provide affordable prototyping with leading fabs in Canada and around the world. CMC can provide services, which may include final DRC, chip finishing and management of all logistics and interactions with fabs. Recipients pay only their portion of direct materials (wafers/chips) and shipping/brokerage costs. These costs are eligible project costs and will be re-imbursed based on the project sharing ratio. There are no additional costs for CMC services. For further information contact challenges@fabricinnovation.ca.

Key Requirements

Fabrication Challenge – Round 2

- The project must include the design and development of a novel
    - Process expanding and leveraging Canadian Research Institute commercial prototyping capability in one (or more) of the key areas of focus: MEMS, compound semiconductors, quantum and photonics processes.
    - Silicon photonics-related process
- The process(es) being developed must have a clear path to commercialization.

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- The project must be aligned with the overall strategic objectives of FABrIC.
- The project should leverage new and existing Canadian fabrication capabilities in Canada where possible. Collaboration with fabrication partners in Canada is encouraged.
- Ownership of all foreground IP created through the project must remain in Canada and be used for the benefit of Canada for a minimum of five years after the completion of the project.
- Capital equipment purchases are not eligible for FABrIC funding for this call.
- The project must contribute to the development and retention of highly qualified personnel in Canada including, for example, training for interns, job creation, job retention, etc.
- The project should demonstrate other benefits to Canada including social, environmental and economic benefits.
- The project should demonstrate alignment and advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Lead and Co-lead organizations must demonstrate that they have sufficient resources to carry out the project to conclusion.
- Estimated project costs must be greater than $200K CDN. (Please contact us for exceptional requests at challenges@fabricinnovation.ca.)
- Typical project duration is expected to be 12 to 24 months; however, projects must conclude **no later than December 31, 2027**.
- The product(s) must demonstrate evidence of market pull at the time of the proposal and be at a TRL of 7 or higher at the end of the project with the intent to commercialize.
- Applicants must provide evidence of the need for funding from FABrIC.
- Projects must be incremental to the regular business of the participating organizations. The proposed project must not already be approved or in progress, must be distinct from investments that would have otherwise occurred and would not be undertaken at the same scope or scale without the support of FABrIC.
- Projects related to experimental or theoretical work without any direct commercial application or use will not be considered.

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Basic Eligibility for Applicants

- Lead and Co-Lead organization(s) must be incorporated or a registered business in Canada and have significant operations in Canada. Lead and Co-lead organizations include:
  - For-profit Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) (<500 employees),
  - Not-for-profit organizations,
  - Post-secondary institutions in Canada or research institutes in Canada that are wholly owned by post-secondary institutions in Canada,
  - Indigenous organizations in Canada.
- Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) may participate as Ultimate Recipients (URs).
- At least one of either the Lead or Co-Lead organizations must be a SME (<500 employees).
- The Lead and Co-Lead organization(s) must be FABrIC Members to complete the submission of an EOI. See fabricinnovation.ca/member.
- Only organizations may apply to Challenges. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- The Lead and Co-Lead organization(s) must have at least three (3) full-time equivalent employees.
- Recipients of FABrIC funding must be in compliance with economic sanctions, financial sanctions and trade embargoes administered by the Government of Canada.
- Designated Projects (as per applicable federal environmental and impact assessment legislation) are not eligible.

Basic Requirements During Project Execution

- All project work must be performed in Canada, unless otherwise pre-approved in writing. A maximum of 10% of the work may be performed outside of Canada with pre-approval.
- Eligible expenditures must comply with the requirements that are described in the Eligible Project Expenses Guide: fabricinnovation.ca.
- **Funding Stacking Limits**: Total Government Funding (including FABrIC and other federal funding, provincial and federal investment tax credits) must not exceed seventy five percent (75%) of Eligible Supported Costs for any Industry participant and one hundred percent (100%) of Eligible Supported Costs for any Post Secondary participant.
- All Ultimate Recipients are required to report on all project activities and submit financial claims and supporting documents on a quarterly basis. Other reporting may be required.
- Additional terms and conditions will be required as stated in the Ultimate Recipient Agreement.

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Selection Process

Step 1: Call for Challenge Projects

Challenge call will be issued on the FABrIC website. The Challenge Guide, Expression of Interest (EOI) templates and supporting documents will be posted.

Step 2: EOI Submissions

Lead organizations will complete the EOI submission according to the Challenge Guide and submit the EOI through the FABrIC Challenges Portal, hosted by Blackbaud, prior to the posted submission deadline.

Step 3: EOI Screening

The FABrIC Challenge team will review EOIs to ensure that the proposals meet the eligibility requirements as provided in the Challenge Guide according to Table 1, below.

Applicants that submit an accepted EOI will be notified by CMC Microsystems' FABrIC Challenge team and will be invited to submit a full project proposal.

Step 4: Full Project Proposal

Lead organizations will complete the full project proposal with input from Co-Lead organization(s), if applicable.

Upon request, the FABrIC Challenge team will provide support to facilitate the applicants' efforts to produce project proposals that best address FABrIC project goals.

The FABrIC Challenge team will undertake a financial assessment of participating Lead and Co-Lead organizations to ensure they will be able to support their commitment to the project for its duration.

Step 5: Project Review and Scoring

All project proposals will be subject to an independent assessment process undertaken by the FABrIC Advisory Committee (FAC). The FAC will select up to five (5) members from FABrIC Challenge Committees to form an expert assessment panel to review, score and rank the submitted project proposals using the screening criteria in Table 1 and Table 2: Challenge Final Application Assessment Criteria below. The expert assessment panel will ensure that approved projects are of high quality, meet FABrIC's strategic objectives and will recommend projects for funding on a fair basis.

The FABrIC Advisory Committee is a group of up to 15 independents reporting to CMC's Board of Directors. The FAC are recognized Canadian experts in the five key technology areas covered by FABrIC: compound semiconductors, silicon photonics, MEMS, quantum and IoT, including edge AI.

The FABrIC Challenge Committee is a pool of up to 50 independent experts from each of the key FABrIC technology areas and includes members from industry (SMEs, MNEs and NFPs) and academia, from across Canada. The members have a variety of sector specific manufacturing and technology backgrounds as well as technical and strategic expertise.

The identity of experts participating in individual project assessments will be kept confidential.

Members of the FAC and FABrIC Challenge Committees will sign non-disclosure agreements as well as conflict of interest disclosures to ensure independence and confidentiality.

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Step 6: Final Project Review and Approval

Based on the Challenge Committee's ranking results and the available funding envelope, the FAC will recommend the final approval for funding of selected projects to the CMC Board.

The CMC Board will review the recommendations from the FAC to ensure the selection process has been followed and if so, will approve the corresponding funding. Note the CMC Board will not assess or be directly involved in the selection of projects.

The FABrIC Challenge team will notify Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) of the selected projects and the funding allocation.

The FABrIC Challenge team will notify each successful applicant and will proceed with the development and completion of an Ultimate Recipient Agreement with the Lead and Co-Lead organizations.

Applicants for projects that are not recommended for approval will be notified, with a summary outlining the reasons why they were not approved, as well as any recommendations to strengthen their applications. These applicants may re-apply for subsequent Challenges.

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Table 1: Challenge EOI Project Pass/Fail Criteria

1) **Organizational requirements:**
    a. All Lead and Co-Lead organizations are incorporated or registered in Canada and have significant operations in Canada are one of (a) for-profit organizations (<500 employees), (b) not-for-profit organizations, (c) post-secondary institutions situated in Canada, (d) research institutes situated in Canada that are wholly owned by post-secondary institutions in Canada, d) Indigenous Organization in Canada.
    b. For not-for-profit organizations based in Canada, the organization is incorporated under the Canada Not-for Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) or similar Provincial Act.
    c. There is a minimum of one Lead or Co-Lead who is a SME (<500 employees).
    d. MNEs may participate as Ultimate Recipients (URs).
    e. All Lead organizations have a minimum 3 full-time equivalents.
    f. All Co-Leads and collaborators have agreed to participate.
    g. Evidence that Canadian operations are substantial with appropriate autonomy.

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2) **Project alignment with FABrIC and call objectives:**
    a. Develops made-in-Canada processes that produce made-in-Canada semiconductors that expand and/or leverage Canadian Research Institute commercial prototyping capability (MEMS, compound semiconductors, photonics and quantum)
    b. Develops made-in-Canada silicon photonics related processes for commercialization in Canada, develops highly qualified personnel (HQP) in Canada, creates/retains jobs in Canada.

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3) **Project Budget:**
    a. Evidence of sufficient working capital and other resources to complete the project, with no more than 75% of total industry eligible project costs being funded with government sources (up to 100% for post-secondary Ultimate Recipients)
    b. The Lead and Co-Lead organization have applied for, are planning to apply for, or have received funding from other federal/provincial sources
    c. Funding request does not exceed 40% of eligible project costs
    d. Funding request does not exceed $1M
    e. In exceptional cases, funding requests of up to $1.5M may be considered
    f. Total eligible project expenses must be greater than $200K CDN

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4) **Market Opportunity and Commercialization Plan:**
    a. Target markets have been identified
    b. Realistic estimates of TAM, SAM and obtainable market have been provided
    c. Realistic commercialization plan has been identified
    d. Realistic revenue projections have been provided
    e. Lead customers or potential lead customers have been identified
    f. Major competitors have been identified

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Table 1: Challenge Project Pass/Fail Criteria, continued

5) **Ability to execute:**
   a. Evidence that the team has the technical skills and human resources to complete the project and commercialization skills to bring the product to market
   b. Evidence that critical collaborators have been identified (supply chain, manufacturing partner(s), subcontractors, etc.)
   c. Major project work activities have been identified
   d. Current TRL is 3 or higher, with reasonable justification
   e. Planned TRL is 7 or higher, with reasonable justification

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6) **Benefits to Canada:**
   Evidence of the following is required:
   a. Job creation/retention, HQP training
   b. EDI initiatives
   c. IP that will be generated and commercialized in Canada
   d. Positive impact to the Canadian value chain and sovereignty
   e. Other social, environmental and economic impact

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7) **Need For FABrIC Funding:**
   a. Demonstrate need for FABrIC funding
   b. Evidence that the project is incremental to the organization's current business activities

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Table 2: Challenge Final Application Assessment Criteria

1) **Commercial Opportunity and Outcomes (1/3)**

   a. Target markets and applications are clearly identified and are aligned with FABrIC's strategic objectives and with the objectives of the call.

   b. Demonstrates that a compelling process(es) will be developed and the organization has a long-term commitment to product/product line.

   c. Major competitors have been identified. Reasonable competitive advantages for the process(es) have been provided, as well as strategies for sustaining competitive advantage.

   d. Demonstrates that the project results in the development of differentiated and/or disruptive technology for Canada.

   e. A compelling commercial opportunity has been identified, including market size (TAM. SAM, SOM), expected revenue, volumes.

   f. Lead and/or potential customers have been identified and an effective plan for customer engagement has been provided.

   g. Letters have been provided (industry experts, advisors, lead customers etc.) to support the market opportunity.

   h. Outlines a clear and reasonable plan for commercialization from within Canada (serving domestic and global markets), including customers, target launch date, regulatory requirement management, commercialization partners (if needed).

   i. Clear roadmap/plan to achieve and sustain 5-year revenue forecasts. Evidence the project will lead to longer term (5+ years) sustained commercial activities in Canada.

   j. Effective scale-up and production manufacturing plans have been provided.

   k. Critical supply chain partners have been identified, and their roles/activities have been included in the plan.

2) **Advancement of the FABrIC Ecosystem and Overall Benefits to Canada (1/3)**

   a. Clearly stated objectives, anticipated outcomes and demonstrates meaningful advancement for the Canadian semiconductor sector. Provides a compelling rationale for how this project enhances or compliments new or existing capabilities.

   b. Objectives and outcomes of the project are aligned with FABrIC objectives and the objectives of the Challenge call.

   c. Project will result in job creation/retention and training of HQP, consistent with the scope, scale and timeframe of the project.

   d. Includes compelling, measurable business outcomes such as increased sales/revenue, new market entry or licensing opportunities that may result from the project.

   e. Identifies foreground IP and related assets that are expected to be generated through the project.

   f. Includes an effective plan for the protection of this foreground IP and related assets and a plan to commercial this IP from within Canada for the benefit of Canadians.

   g. Includes an effective plan for managing both background and foreground IP between Lead and Co-Leads (if applicable).

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h. Demonstrates the Lead (and Co-Lead(s)) has appropriate access to background IP required to execute project and commercialize the product(s).

i. Demonstrates direct, quantifiable economic benefits to Canada.

j. Demonstrates the project will deliver positive impacts to Canadian sovereignty and security.

k. Project facilitates new investment into small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Other Benefits to Canada:

l. Projects that demonstrate clear collaboration with diverse industry, government and research groups will receive favourable consideration.

m. Projects that demonstrate a plan for sharing IP assets or knowledge gained through the project with the broader Canadian semiconductor ecosystem and that clearly improve access to and/or build process capacity for the FABrIC ecosystems, will receive favourable consideration.

n. Projects that include activities/plans that advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion will receive favourable consideration. Providing evidence of your EDI policies, procedures and practices, where available, is encouraged.

3) **Project Execution Plan, Budget and Likelihood of Success (1/3)**

a. Roles of the Lead, Co-Leads and Collaborators are clear and appropriate based on the scope of the project.

b. Key project team members and their roles have been identified.

c. The project team has the necessary experience and expertise to execute the project and to identify, procure and engage the right resources and partners needed for successful execution. This is supported by the bios provided.

d. Evidence that the project team can begin the project within 60 days of signing the Ultimate Recipient Agreement.

e. Project statement of work is reasonable based on project scope and is well-articulated, with clear tasks, milestones, KPIs and deliverables.

f. Project timeframe and deliverable are clear and feasible.

g. Budget is clear, reasonable and in line with project plan.

h. Project risk register is thorough and identifies major risks, risk mitigation strategies are reasonable and manageable. If there are risks not associated with milestones, please also include them and define applicable mitigation strategies.

i. Compelling argument outlining why the project would not proceed or would not achieve a similar level of positive outcomes or impact without FABrIC funding.

j. Evidence that the project is a distinct investment for the Lead (and Co-Lead(s)) and is new or incremental to the existing business of the organizations.

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Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The FABrIC project is powered by and managed by CMC Microsystems. CMC is unwavering in its commitment to the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We believe that fostering an inclusive environment enhances innovation, creativity and excellence. We recognize that a breadth of perspectives, skills and experiences contribute to excellence in research and innovation. This culture is the responsibility of every participant in the ecosystem, including employees, funders, investors, sponsors, institutions, companies, researchers, advisors, administrators and reviewers. As part of our dedication to EDI, CMC is also actively participating in the Government of Canada's 50-30 Challenge, which aims to accelerate gender parity and the inclusion of under-represented groups in leadership roles.

EDI is a cornerstone of our governance and operational practices. FABrIC Challenge, Innovation Platform and Ecosystem Development proposals that advance EDI principles are given additional assessment points, reflecting our commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive community. We recognize that embracing EDI is not just a goal, but a continuous journey. By embedding these values into our decision-making and resource allocation processes, we aim to ensure that our investments yield the maximum benefit for all members of our community.

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Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)

Activities for proposed projects will generally fall under Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 3 to 7 but could cover the whole range of TRLs 1 to 9. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) (Innovation Canada) describes stages of development, including a TRL assessment tool and checklist, online at https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-canada/en/technology-readiness-levels.

Technology Development Stage	TRL	Definition	Description
Fundamental Research	**1**	Basic principles observed and reported	Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development (R&D). Activities might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties.
	2	Technology concept and/or application formulated	Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Activities are limited to analytic studies.
Research and Development	**3**	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or proof of concept	Active research and development is initiated. This includes analytical studies and/or laboratory studies. Activities might include components that are not yet integrated or representative.
	4	Product and/or process validation in laboratory environment	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that they will work together. Activities include integration of "ad hoc" hardware in the laboratory.
	5	Component and/or validation in a simulated environment	The basic technological components are integrated for testing in a simulated environment. Activities include laboratory integration of components.
Pilot and Demonstration	**6**	System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a simulated environment	A model or prototype that represents a near desired configuration. Activities include testing in a simulated operational environment or laboratory.
	7	Prototype ready for demonstration in an appropriate operational environment	Prototype at planned operational level and is ready for demonstration in an operational environment. Activities include prototype field testing.
	8	Actual technology completed and qualified through tests and demonstrations	Technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. Activities include developmental testing and evaluation of whether it will meet operational requirements.
Early Adoption	**9**	Actual technology proven through successful deployment in an operational setting	Actual application of the technology in its final form and under real-life conditions, such as those encountered in operational tests and evaluations. Activities include using the innovation under operational conditions.

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