



Powered by
Propulsé par



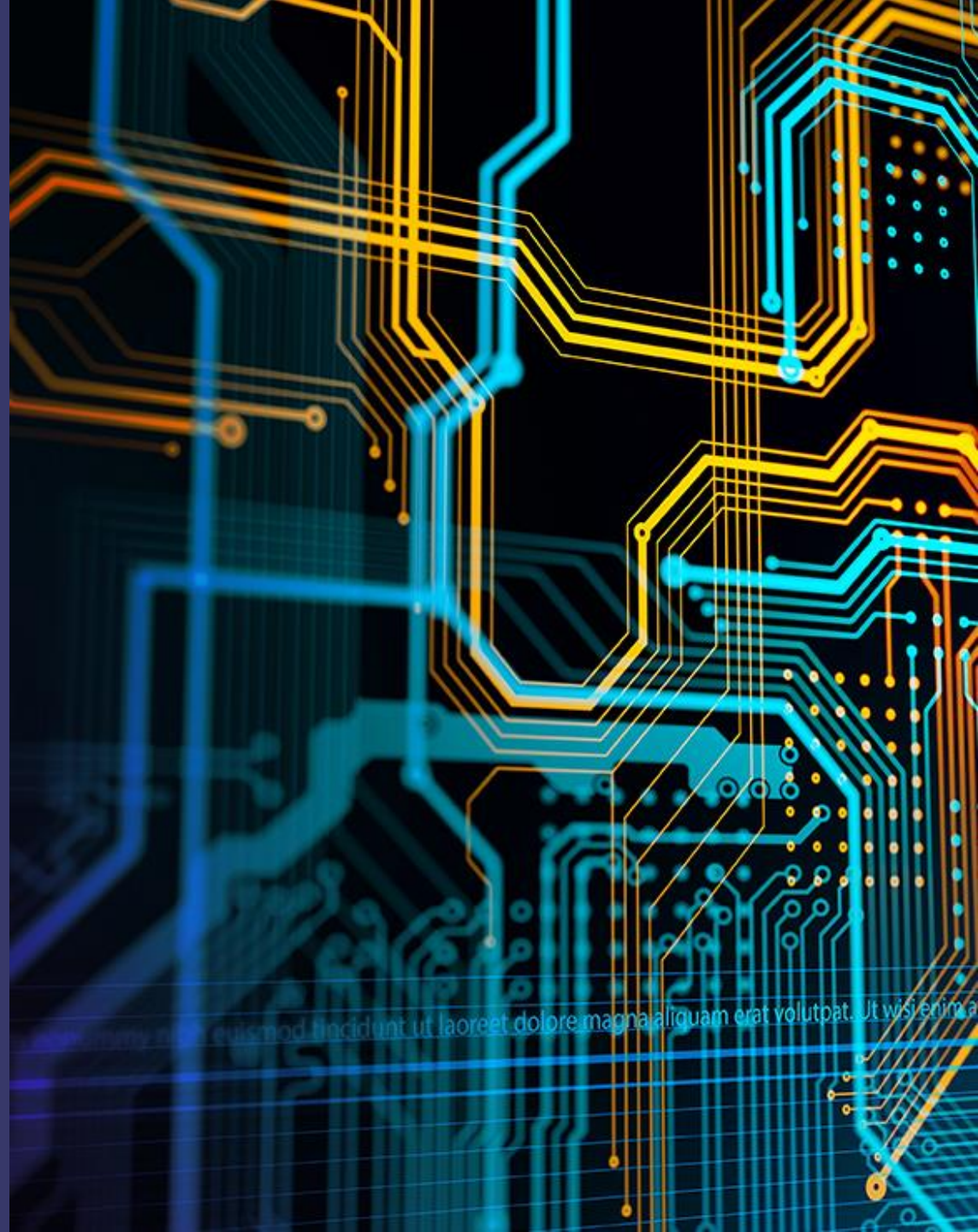
Challenge Open Call

Overview

Richard Dunda

August 20, 2026

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Agenda

About FABrIC

- The opportunity
- Powered by CMC Microsystems

Open Call

- Funding Opportunity

Process Development (Fabrication)

- Supports projects that enable and stimulate novel Fabrication Process Development initiatives from Canadian industry and academics, while leveraging and enhancing the prototyping and manufacturing capacity of domestic fabrication facilities.

Product Development (IoT)

- Supports the design, development, and commercialization in Canada of novel advanced sensors and other semiconductor chips targeted at the IoT market.

Who Can Apply

- Leads, Co-Leads & Collaborators
- Project must be led by a Canadian SME

FABrIC Challenge Support

- CMC technical support

Project Selection Criteria

- EOI Screening
- Project Selection Criteria
- Project Execution Requirements

How to Apply

- FABrIC Membership
- Blackbaud portal

Questions & Answers at end of presentation – Submit during Webinar

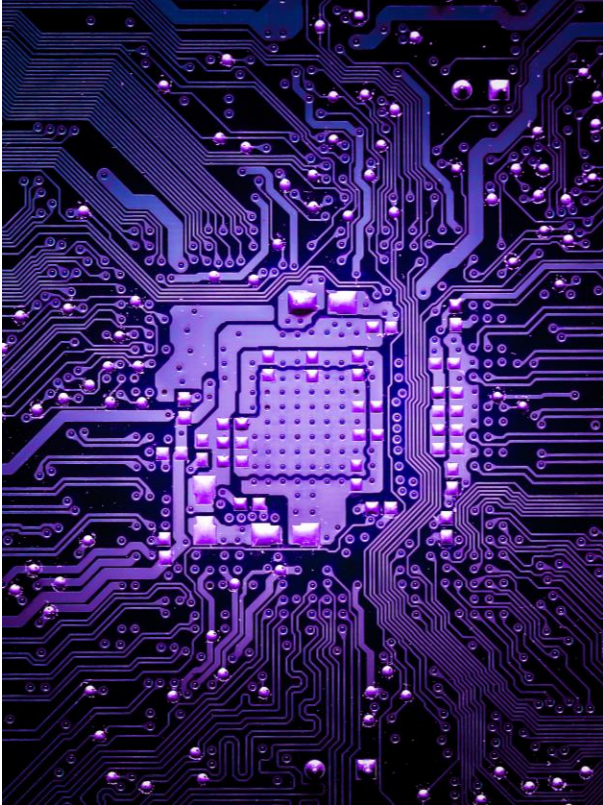
A generational opportunity

A strategic investment by the Government of Canada to stimulate and expand the semiconductor ecosystem across Canada

- A \$217M, five-year project with total funding of up to \$120M from ISED
- Accelerate made-in-Canada Semiconductor/IoT Products and Fabrication Process Development through Challenge funding
 - Leveraging existing Canadian strengths in Product Development, Photonics, MEMS, Compound Semiconductors and Quantum technologies
- Cultivate critical skills to secure the HQP pipeline
- Drive National Quantum readiness
- Intensify connections across the Canadian semiconductor ecosystem and strategic end sectors



FABrIC's Challenges 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.



Gordon Harling
President & CEO

FABrIC builds on over 40 years of CMC Microsystems' leadership in advancing Canadian innovation.

Through strategic management of federal and provincial investments, CMC has introduced cutting-edge technologies, supported world-class research, and shaped Canada's high-tech ecosystem.

Offering:

- Advanced infrastructure and design and simulation tool access
- Fabrication services providing access to a global supply chain
- Canada's talent pipeline development through targeted training and re-skilling
- Design and support services through our technical team
- A robust network of national and international collaborators



Powered by
Propulsé par



FABrIC Funding One Challenge Call. Two Tracks.

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

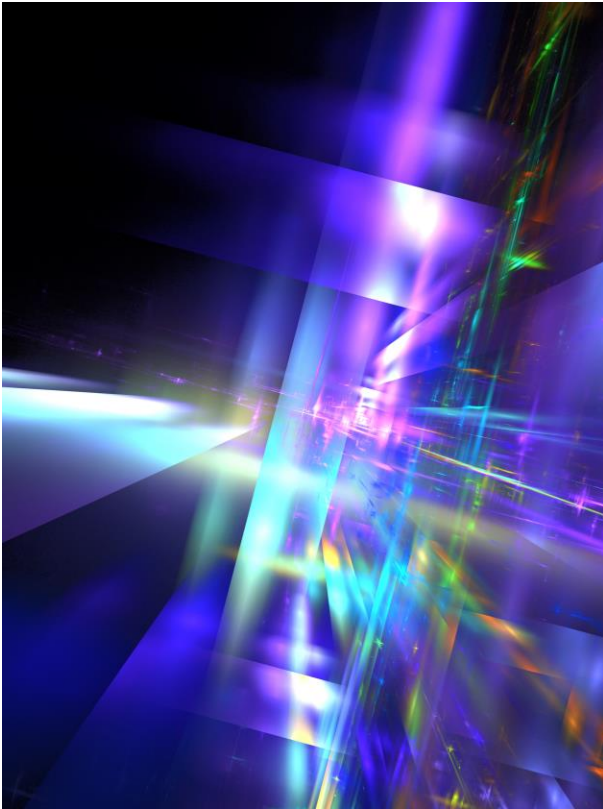


One-Call - Open for Applications in Two Rounds

- Application Portal Open August 10, 2026
 - Remains open for the duration of the FABrIC Program
 - EOIs on the portal will be reviewed but new EOIs are constantly accepted
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) Reviewed in 2 cycles
 - Round 3 – EOIs due Sept 8, 2026
 - Round 4 – EOIs due Dec 1, 2026
- Successful applicants invited to full application
 - Round 3 – Full Applications due Oct 27, 2026 / Projects end by Oct 31, 2028
 - Round 4 – Full Applications due Feb 9, 2027 / Projects end by Dec 18, 2028
- Portal remains open until Dec 1, 2026

Details also in [EOI Template](#)

Two Tracks – Fabrication Process & IoT Products



- **Fabrication Process Development**

- Semiconductor fabrication processes, capacity, and capabilities developed through Canadian-based fabrication facilities
- Reimbursement rate: 40% of eligible project expenses
- MNE eligible as Leads or Co-Leads
- Exit TRL 7 or higher

- **IoT Product Development**

- Design and fabricate semiconductor devices, including advanced sensors
- Commercialize in Canada
- Reimbursement rate: 37% of eligible project expenses
- MNE are not eligible as Leads or Co-Leads – only as collaborators
- Exit TRL 8 or higher



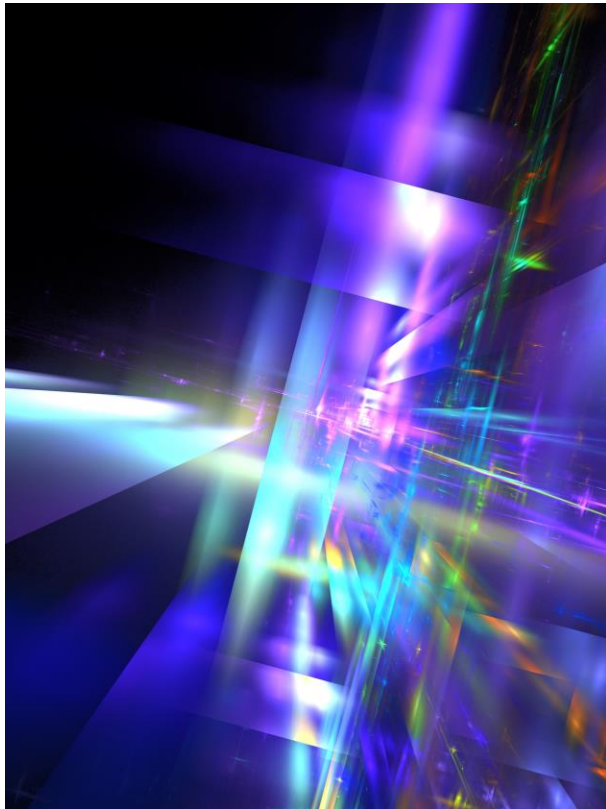
Powered by
Propulsé par



FABrIC Challenge Funding Overview

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada





Up to \$1M in non-repayable funding*

- Up to 37% (IoT) or 40% (Fabrication) of eligible project expenses
- Non-repayable funding
- Reimbursements paid quarterly based on actual eligible expenses
- No capital equipment purchases
- Possibility of funding over \$1M / Repeats applicants allowed
- Details and application info: fabricinnovation.ca/funding

Eligibility & Strategic Alignment:

- Clear path to commercialization and evidence of market
- Aligned with FABrIC strategic objectives
- Leverage Canadian fabrication capabilities
- Target TRL 7+ by project end



*exceptional cases, funding of up to \$1.5M may be considered, not to exceed eligible project reimbursement rate

Who Can Apply

Lead & Co-Lead Organizations Must:

- Be **incorporated or registered** in Canada
- Have **significant operations** in Canada
- Include one or more of the following:
 - For-profit SMEs (<500 employees)
 - Not-for-profit organizations
 - Canadian post-secondary institutions or their research institutes
 - Indigenous organizations in Canada
- Be **FABrIC Members** to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Additional Requirements:

- At least one **Lead or Co-Lead must be a Canadian SME** (<500 employees)
- Must have **≥ 3 full-time equivalent employees**
- Only **organizations** may apply (individuals not eligible)
- Must comply with **Canadian sanctions and trade regulations**
- Projects designated under federal environmental/impact assessment legislation are not eligible

Leads, Co-Leads and Collaborators

Lead:

- Organization leading the project proposal,
- Seeking direct funding from FABrIC,
- Main point of contact,
- Signs FABrIC project agreement,
- Responsible for overall reporting, management and of the project (if application is successful)

Co-Lead:

- Seeking direct funding from FABrIC
- Signs FABrIC project agreement with the Lead
- Up to 3 co-leads can participate in a project (*but this is not encouraged – highly complex claims*)

Collaborators:

- Not a signatory to the project agreement
- Not directly seeking funding from FABrIC
- May be included in a project work plan
- May be making in-kind contribution to a project that enables completion of project activities.
- May be an essential partner for the success of the project
- May be a key stakeholder in the success of the project
- Supply partners, subcontractors, academics, VCs, lead customers etc. can be collaborators
- Encouraged to supply a letter of support

At least one Lead or Co-Lead must be a Canadian SME



Supporting Product Prototyping for Challenge Projects

What's Included:

- Development and/or support for development of PDKs
- Access to CMC's fabrication and packaging support services
- Aggregated multi-project or custom wafer runs for affordable prototyping
- Access to fabrication in leading Fabs in Canada and globally
- CMC's Services may include:
 - Final Design Rule Check (DRC)
 - Chip finishing
 - Managing MPW logistics and/or fabrication interface

Cost & Reimbursement:

- Recipients pay only for Direct materials (wafers/chips) plus Shipping & brokerage
- Eligible project costs and reimbursed based on the project sharing ratio
- No additional fees for CMC services

Project Selection Process / Timeline – Round 3



Step 1 Open Challenge Call

Step 2 Sept 8, 2026, 9:00 pm ET – Deadline for submission of Round 3 EOIs

Step 3 Sept 14, 2026 – Successful applicants will be notified and invited to submit a full proposal

Step 4 Oct 27, 2026 – Deadline for submission of Full Proposal

Step 6 Mid-Dec 2026 – Notification of results to applicants

Round 3 Projects must end by October 31, 2028

Project Selection Process / Timeline – Round 4



Powered by
Propulsé par



Step 1 Open Challenge Call

Step 2 Dec 1, 2026, 9:00 pm ET – Deadline for submission of Round 4 EOIs

Step 3 Dec 11, 2026 – Successful applicants will be notified and invited to submit a full proposal

Step 4 Feb 9, 2027 – Deadline for submission of Full Proposal

Step 6 Mid-Mar, 2027 – Notification of results to applicants

Round 4 Projects must end by December 18, 2028

EOI Screening (continued)

Financial & Timeline:

- Estimated Eligible Expenses (project cost): minimum \$675K CAD, maximum of \$4M CAD*
- Duration: 12–24 months
- Must demonstrate need for FABrIC funding
- Team has the resources and skills to execute the project
 - Within 60-days of Award date
- Projects must be a distinct and incremental investment

Benefits to Canada:

- Development and retention of HQP in Canada including training, job creation, job retention etc.
- Development of IP for commercialization within Canada
- Social, environmental and economic impacts.
- Advancement of the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

*FABrIC funding of up to \$1M. Exceptional cases, funding of up to \$1.5M may be considered, not exceeding the eligible project expenses %

Project Selection Criteria



Projects Assessed for:

1. Commercial Opportunities and Outcomes
2. Advancement of the FABrIC Ecosystem and Overall Benefits to Canada
3. Project Execution, Budget, and Likelihood of Success

Each of these criteria categories will have equal weighting unless otherwise decided by the FABrIC Advisory Committee (FAC).

Proposals evaluated to be excessively weak in their demonstration of any selection criteria may not be successful.

Details in [Challenge Guide](#)

See also: [Blackbaud Application Portal guide](#)

Project Execution Requirements



Ultimate Recipient Agreement (URA):

- Executed **within 60 days** of letter of award
- Project activities must substantially begin within 60 days of signing URA
- Eligible expenses can be claimed as of award date

Location of Work:

- All project work must be performed in Canada, unless pre-approved
- Maximum 10% of work can occur outside Canada with approval.

Eligible Expenses:

- Must comply with the Eligible Project Expenses Guide

Funding Stacking Limits:

- Industry participants: Stacking up to 75% of eligible supported costs
- Post-secondary participants: Stacking up to 100%

Project Execution Requirements



Intellectual Property (IP):

- Ownership of all foreground IP must remain in Canada and be used for the benefit of Canada for a minimum of five years after the completion of the project.
- Evidence of access to background IP

Reporting Requirements:

- Quarterly reporting of activities
- Submission of financial claims and supporting documents
- Additional reporting may be required

Compliance

- Recipients must comply with **Canadian economic and trade sanctions**

How To Apply

Applications for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Opened August 10, 2026

1st Review Sept 8, 2026
at 9:00 PM EST



Details also in [Challenge Guide](#)

- **Download** documents at fabricinnovation.ca/product-challenges
- Create an account on the new **FABrIC Challenges Portal**, hosted by **Blackbaud**.
- Apply for **FABrIC Membership** at fabricinnovation.ca/member (may take 2 to 5 business days)
- A complete Expression of Interest must be submitted through the **FABrIC Challenges Portal**.
- If you have any questions, contact: challenges@fabricinnovation.ca
- **Details and application info:** fabricinnovation.ca/process-challenges/



Free Membership for Canadian Industry, Not-for-profit and Government Agencies

Access to Services and Resources

- Participate in Challenge Calls
- Quantum Sandbox Calls
- IP Registry
- IP Repository
- Other resources and collaborative opportunities

Member pricing on

- Training and Reskilling
- Events
- Quantum Services



Powered by
Propulsé par



A special thank you to our Founding Partners



IQBit

