Growing successful small- and medium-sized businesses in Alberta

Regional Innovation Network

Services provided directly by Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures (AITF) and via partner organizations throughout Alberta’s Regional Innovation Network (RIN) are available to support business growth.

Through the RINs, businesses have access to the commercialization expertise and services required to address their unique needs. Member organizations in the Network offer a suite of geographically convenient services and programs including advisory services; technology and concept development; industry and academic funding programs; market and customer development; financing and investment attraction; and educational programs.

In addition to AITF’s programs, a range of services and supports to new and growing businesses are also available through partner organizations in six RIN locations. Contact any of the following organizations to explore their offerings:

- Edmonton: TEC Edmonton, NAIT, Northern Alberta Business Incubator
- Calgary: Innovate Calgary and SAIT
- Grande Prairie: Centre for Research and Innovation
- Red Deer: Red Deer College and Central Alberta Regional Innovation Network
- Lethbridge: Lethbridge College, University of Lethbridge, tecconnect and Regional Innovation Network of Southern Alberta
- Medicine Hat: Medicine Hat College, Community Futures and APEX

Additional services are available from CETAC-WEST, which offers small business development services and TRT Tech which provides ICT-related small business development services.

Micro-Vouchers and Vouchers

Micro-vouchers and Vouchers help small early-stage technology and knowledge-driven businesses in Alberta get their ideas and products to the market faster. The program assists pre- or low-revenue Alberta companies that are in the concept and formation stages of their business and facilitates their movement into the growth stage.

There are two types of Vouchers:

- **Micro-Vouchers** are designed to support technologies in the early developmental stages, with up to $10,000 in funding.
- **Vouchers** are designed to support technologies in the mid- to late-developmental stages (and some early developmental stages) with between $10,001 to $100,000 in funding.

Bridging the gap between discovery and commerce.

AITF offers programs and services to help build globally competitive commerce in Alberta in the priority areas of energy and environment, bio-industries and health.

Innovation powered by albertainnovatestechfutures.ca
Product Demonstration Program

The Product Demonstration Program (PDP) is designed to support technologies in the more advanced stages of development. The PDP is intended to fund the SME to work in collaboration with a project partner for the purpose of showcasing the performance, method and features of a prototype in the general marketplace or, alternately, showcasing the complete technology product to a strategic customer in an operational environment, and validating its economic and technical feasibility.

AITF investment funding in the range of $100,001 to $300,000 is available for the following activities:

- Technology optimization critical for market acceptance
- Manufacturing of a prototype for demonstration project
- Applications for regulatory approval and certifications critical for market acceptance
- Testing of a prototype in an operational environment and/or
- Results assessment/verification of technical data

Alberta-Finland Innovation and Commercialization Program

The Alberta-Finland Innovation and Commercialization program was developed to:

- Enhance commercialization activities between Alberta and Finland
- Improve global competitiveness
- Enable international market development and access for SMEs

The program grants funding to Alberta SMEs collaborating with Finnish companies on innovative joint R&D projects. It supports projects that promote innovation and commercialization in the following areas:

- Advanced Materials
- Clean Technologies
- Health
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Instrumentation/Sensors
- Nanotechnology

Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program

The Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program supports cross-provincial collaborations between industry and academia to solve key industry challenges in both provinces. This program supports projects that develop innovative products and/or services addressing industrial challenges in priority areas for Alberta and Ontario, including:

- Advanced health technologies
- Advanced materials and manufacturing
- Agriculture, forestry
- Energy and environment (including water)
- Information, communications technologies, digital media
- Life sciences, biotechnology
- Nanotechnology

Industry Commercialization Associates

This competitive funding program addresses the growing need for highly trained business and management personnel in Alberta high-tech industries. Alberta companies recruit business professionals with experience, leading to stronger technology commercialization for the benefit of the company and Alberta’s economy.

The program consists of an annual stipend for a maximum of two years. It includes:

- Contributions of $55,000 from AITF
- A minimum $15,000 cash contribution from the company
- An annual commercialization allowance of $7,000 for AITF to cover qualified costs for travel and marketing intelligence

Industry r&D Associates

Alberta Innovates Industry r&D Associates addresses the increasing research and development (R&D) personnel needs of Alberta industry. It enables companies to recruit recent Master’s and PhD graduates to conduct research that benefits the organization while also retaining these highly skilled researchers in the Alberta with quality employment in their fields.

The program consists of an annual stipend of $55,000 and an annual research allowance of $7,000 from AITF. The funding term is up to a maximum of two years.

Put our expertise to work for you:

Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures
T 780.450.5111
grants.techfutures@albertainnovates.ca
albertainnovates-techfutures.ca