

Getting Started: An Introduction to OSC

Introduction

Canada's Ocean Supercluster (OSC) is a national, industry-led transformative cluster that is driving cross-sectoral collaboration, accelerating innovation, and growing Canada's ocean economy in a way that has never been done before.

By connecting organizations from across the country, we invest in projects brought forward by our members that commercialize technology, build capacity for innovation, and support digital, sustainable, and inclusive ocean growth.

Joining the OSC

The OSC has members across the country, including for-profit companies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, Indigenous organizations, government agencies, and others with a shared commitment to addressing shared ocean challenges.

Any organization, in Canada or abroad, can join as an Associate Member for free. As an Associate Member, you'll gain access to our online OSC Member Portal, events, and be able to submit project ideas for consideration.

To receive the documents to become an Associate Member, please fill out the [Expression of Interest](#) and follow the instructions provided in the email. You need to sign the Joinder Agreement to become an official OSC member.

In response to submitting the expression of interest, you'll receive an invite to a webinar, during which an OSC staff member can answer any questions related to the Membership Agreement.

Organizations that invest in industry led OSC projects are Industry Members. Each Industry Member contributes a portion of their investment to cluster building activities (up to 15%). More information available is available on the [OSC website](#).

Programs

The OSC has two programs, Technology Leadership, and Innovation Ecosystem.

Technology Leadership

This program brings together investors and partners from across ocean industries to develop and commercialize innovative solutions to shared challenges through collaborative projects.

The OSC reimburses Industry Members for investments considered funded eligible costs during the implementation of Technology Leadership projects. Additional information on contributions, eligible costs and organization eligibility are detailed in the Finance section below.

There are two streams in the Technology Leadership (TL) Program: The first stream is the CORE Program, which accepts applications on an ongoing basis and is an iterative process with support from OSC staff.

More information on project selection criteria below, along with the project qualification template referenced in the guide:

[TL Project Selection Guide](#)

[TL Project Qualification Template](#)

The second stream are call-for-proposals. Our first call-for-proposals series was named the Accelerated Ocean Solutions Program. Applications for calls are deadline driven and competitive. Any active call-for-proposals are listed under the *Projects* section of the OSC website.

The IP Guide and several videos to help you develop projects are available on the [OSC website](#).

Innovation Ecosystem

This program is designed to improve the innovation landscape in Canada by catalyzing and investing in collaborative projects that support company creation and growth, diverse and inclusive talent attraction and development, access to shared resources, and global collaborations.

Finance

The Supercluster will co-invest in funded eligible projects posts. The rate of co-investment is provided as a reimbursement for funded eligible costs incurred and depends on the program stream.

Find more information on eligible costs at:

[Eligible Project Cost Guidelines](#)

Eligible project costs can be incurred as cash payments for goods and services such as supplies, materials, equipment, wages, etc. (cash contributions) or as contributions of goods and services to the project for free such as free access to equipment (in-kind contributions).

Cash contributions can be directly reimbursed by the Supercluster. In-kind contributions cannot be directly reimbursed; however, the Fair Market Value of the in-kind contribution can be matched in the overall project budget and result in other eligible project costs (cash contributions) to be reimbursed at a higher rate than the project rate of co-investment as to compensate.

Find more information on in-kind contributions at:

[In-Kind Contributions Guide](#)

Eligible Organizations

To be reimbursed for Funded Eligible Project Costs during an Innovation Ecosystem project, your organization needs to be a Member.

To be reimbursed for Funded Eligible Projects Costs during a Technology Leadership Project, your organization needs to be an Industry Member.

To be eligible as an Industry Member, your organization needs to be registered in Canada, and needs to be either a for-profit company, or a non-profit that receives its funding primarily through the private sector.

Industry Members provide a portion of their overall cash contribution to the OSC for cluster building activities (in-kind contributions are not taken into consideration). These are called membership commitments and are in addition to the amount invested in projects. This topic is addressed in more detail on our [website](#).

Summary

1. If you're interested in becoming involved with the OSC, fill-out the [Expression of Interest](#).
2. Learn more about our [Technology Leadership program](#), and our [Innovation Ecosystem Program](#).
3. As it relates to project finances, start with our guidance on [Eligible Costs](#).
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