



National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

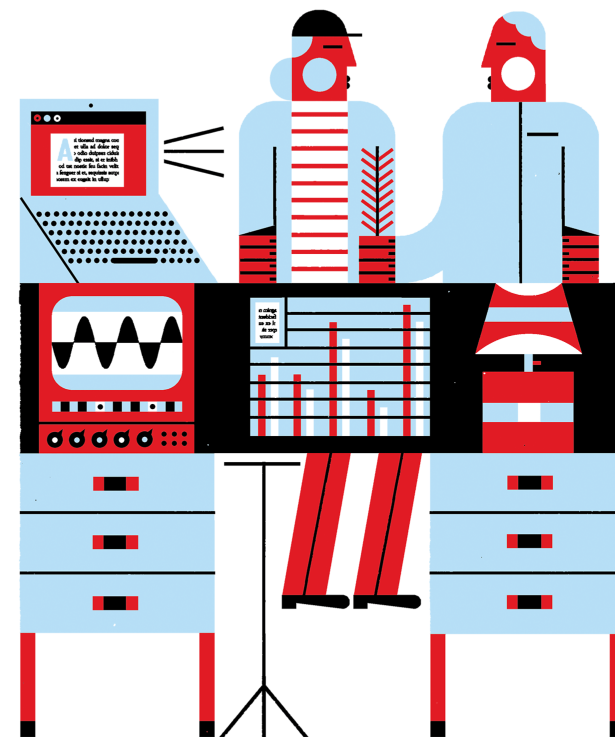
Joint call for proposals on quantum technologies

Presented by NRF & NSERC

September 9/10, 2026

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1. Overview



Overview of NRF-NSERC Joint Call

Background

- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the Global Research Council meeting in Bangkok in May 2026.
- Korea's quantum investments are guided by the Comprehensive Plan for Quantum Science and Technology.
- Canada's quantum investments are guided by the National Quantum Strategy (NQS), as well as the Defence Industrial Strategy presented in Budget 2025.



Overview of NRF-NSERC Joint Call

Objective

- Leverage the complementary interests and research expertise of Canadian and Korean academic researchers to support bilateral research projects in quantum science and technologies.
- Proposals **must** aim to advance quantum research in one or more of the following:
 - quantum algorithms/encryption, including post-quantum cryptography
 - quantum communications
 - quantum computing
 - quantum materials
 - quantum sensing.
- **Non-confidential, unclassified** university-based research; may include research on technologies with dual-use applications.
- For this collaborative call for proposals, **non-academic** lead PIs are **not** permitted.
- Private sector / industry collaborators or partner organizations are **not** permitted.

Overview of NRF-NSERC Joint Call

Value and Duration

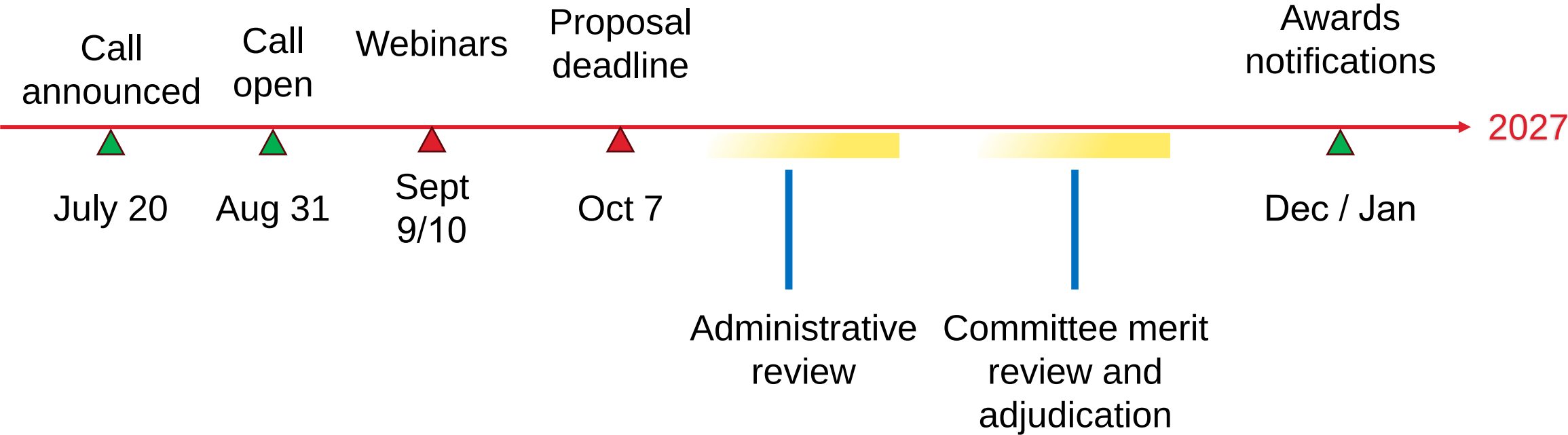


Agency	Grant value	Grant duration	Total investment
NRF	Around KRW 300 million per project, per year	Up to three years	Approx. KRW 3.6 billion
NSERC	Max. \$250,000 CAD per project per year	Up to three years	Approx. \$3M CAD

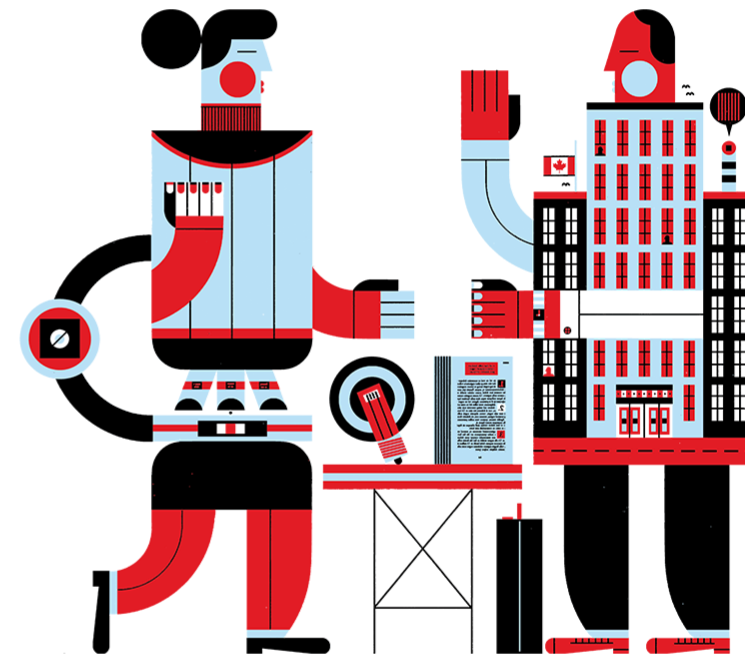
(Expected number of projects funded: ~ 4)

Overview of NRF-NSERC Joint Call

Important Dates



2. How to Apply - NRF



How to Apply: NRF

Who can apply

- Research team composed of one lead PI representing Korea and one representing Canada.
- Korean side: only domestic universities may serve as the Lead Institution; Collaborating Institutions may include universities and national/public or government-funded research institutes (a consortium of academic and research institutions is permitted).
- Corporate / for-profit entities may not participate on the Korean side.
- Korean Principal Investigators must be affiliated with an institution eligible to conduct national R&D programs, and must satisfy applicable participation restrictions (e.g., the 3-PI / 5-Co-I Rule) under the National R&D Innovation Act.
- NRF will assess the eligibility of Korean researchers.



How to Apply: NRF

Submission

Full Application

Korean project lead submits **the full application package** in English, including the collaborative Korea–Canada research proposal, through the Integrated Research Support System (IRIS) on behalf of the Korean and Canadian research teams.

Review

Administrative review by NRF.

Review

Merit review by Committee (overseen by NRF, 1 Canadian member).

Awards

NRF and NSERC jointly decide which projects to award.

Awards granted to Korean teams by NRF.

How to Apply: NRF

Full Application Contents

Research Plan (Main Application)

- Research Plan, in English, 1 copy
- Main body (PART 2) accepted in English only; within 17 pages, excluding references and the PI's CV
- Submitted by the Korean project lead through IRIS on behalf of the Korean and Canadian research teams

Appendix 1–2: Eligibility & Consent Forms

- Appendix 1 [Required]: Confirmation of Eligibility
- Appendix 2 [Required]: Consent for Provision/Use of Personal and Tax Information / Research Ethics Compliance Pledge
- Applies to Lead, Collaborating, and Subcontracted institutions

Appendix 3: Institutional Support Confirmation

- [Required if applicable]
- Applies to Lead, Collaborating, and Subcontracted institutions

How to Apply: NRF

Full Application Contents (cont'd)

Appendix 4: Data Management Plan (DMP)

- [Required] Prepared per the National R&D Data Management Standards
- Applies to Lead and Collaborating institutions (not required for Subcontracted institutions)
- Reviewed at each stage of the merit review; revisions may be requested

Appendix 5: STRAC Attestation Form

- [Required] Under Canada's Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) Policy
- Each Korea-side PI (Lead, Collaborating, Subcontracted) completes their own form
- Lead Institution collects all forms and CVs, submits to NRF (IRIS), and forwards them to the Canada-side PI for submission to NSERC

Submission of Appendices

- All appendices apply only to Korean-side institutions
- Lead Institution is responsible for collecting and submitting all appendices together through IRIS
- Failure to submit required documents (incl. "if applicable" items) will result in exclusion from evaluation

How to Apply: NRF

Eligible Expenses (Korean Project Budget)

- Prepared in accordance with the National R&D Innovation Act.
- Government-funded R&D budget: up to KRW 300 million per project, per year (up to KRW 900 million total over the 3-year project period), inclusive of indirect costs and VAT.
- Direct research costs may include: labor costs, research facility/equipment costs, research material costs, and research activity costs (including activities supporting collaboration with the Canadian research team).
- Subcontracted R&D costs are capped at 40% of Direct Costs (excluding subcontracted, international collaboration, and cost-sharing costs).
- Indirect costs are calculated per the National R&D Program Expenditure Standards notice.
- As Canadian researchers receive separate national funding directly from NSERC, applicants are asked to refrain from allocating Korean-side International Collaborative Research funds to the Canadian team.

How to Apply: NRF

Merit Review & Funding Decisions

- The full collaborative Korea–Canada proposal will undergo merit review by the NRF, the lead agency, according to its processes and assessment criteria.
- NSERC will not conduct a parallel merit review. The NRF will provide NSERC with the merit review results.
- NSERC and NRF will **jointly determine** funding recommendation outcomes and fund selected projects to support the activities of eligible researchers in their respective countries.

How to Apply: NRF

Review Procedure

- **Applications Shared:** Korean-side applications are received and shared with the Canadian side. (NRF)
- **① Preliminary Review:** Applicant eligibility, participation restrictions, and document completeness are screened against each country's requirements. (NRF, NSERC)
- **② Expert Review & Bilateral Consultation:** The NRF Review Committee conducts merit review; NSERC observes the committee meeting and consults with NRF on results. A draft list of supported projects is agreed upon jointly.
- **③ Program Steering Committee Review:** The proposed projects are reviewed and adjusted (if required); NRF is notified of results. (MSIT - Ministry of Science and ICT – Information and Communication Technology)
- **④ Final Selection & Appeals:** Review results are announced. The head of the R&D institution may submit an appeal to NRF within 10 days of notification.

How to Apply: NRF

Merit Evaluation Criteria

1. Collaborative research (25 points)

This criterion assesses the extent to which the collaborative dimension of the proposal is meaningful, well-structured, and conducive to the successful achievement of the project's objectives.

2. Scientific relevance, originality and topicality (25 points)

This criterion assesses the scientific importance of the proposed research and its potential contribution to the relevant field and broader societal or technological context.

3. Suitability of methods and feasibility (25 points)

This criterion evaluates whether the proposed methodology, research design, and analytical approach are appropriate and sufficiently robust to achieve the stated objectives.

4. Applicants' scientific track record and expertise (25 points)

This criterion examines whether the applicants possess the necessary scientific qualifications, subject-matter expertise, and research experience to carry out the proposed project successfully.

In the event of a tie in the merit review, priority is given to the criteria above, in order (① → ④).

3.How to Apply: NSERC



How to Apply: NSERC

Who can apply

- Canadian university researchers eligible to receive NSERC funds, can apply independently or as a team with co-applicants who are also eligible academic researchers.
 - Adjunct professors whose primary place of employment is in Canada while outside the university sector (e.g., government, industry or not-for-profit) may apply as co-applicants.
 - College faculty can participate as co-applicants.
 - Non-academic (private/industry) collaborators and partner organizations are not permitted.
- Researchers may participate as principal applicant on only one application; may participate as co-applicant or collaborator on multiple applications.
- NSERC will review the eligibility of Canadian researchers.
- Reminder: Canadian researcher(s) are expected to contribute to the development of the collaborative Korea-Canada research proposal; joint research activities and plans of all parties involved should be reflected in the full application.



How to Apply: NSERC

Submission and Next Steps

Simplified Application

Canadian lead applicant submits a **simplified application**, in English or in French, through [NSERC's online system](#) on behalf of the Canadian research team.

Review

Administrative review by NSERC.

Review

Merit review by Committee (overseen by NRF, 1 Canadian member).

Awards

NRF and NSERC jointly decide which projects to award.

Awards granted to Canadian teams by NSERC.

*Canadian lead applicants are encouraged to consult the Government of Canada's [quantum missions](#) and [roadmaps](#).

How to apply: NSERC

Simplified Application Contents (mandatory)

Application for a grant - Form 101

- Completed by the Canadian principal applicant on behalf of the Canadian research team.



STRAC Attestation form

- In accordance with the Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy), applications submitted under this funding opportunity are considered to aim to advance a sensitive technology research area.
- Applicant, co-applicant(s) and collaborator(s) (including international) must each complete the attestation form; this certifies your compliance with the policy.
- Applicant is responsible for collecting and merging all completed attestation forms

Personal data form with CCV attachment (Form 100A)

- Completed by the Canadian principal applicant and any Canadian co-applicant(s).

How to Apply: NSERC

Simplified Application Contents (mandatory)

Biosketch/CV

- For each Korean collaborator, including Korean project lead.
- Each Canadian collaborator.

Summary of proposal

- Nature of the work; why and to whom the research is important.
- Anticipated outcomes and advancements that will result in economic, environmental and/or societal benefits for Canada and the Republic of Korea.
- Plain-language; summary will be made available to the public if your proposal is funded.
- One or both official languages.

Budget and justification

- For Canadian project costs (see next slide for details).



How to Apply: NSERC

Eligible Expenses (Canadian Project Budget)

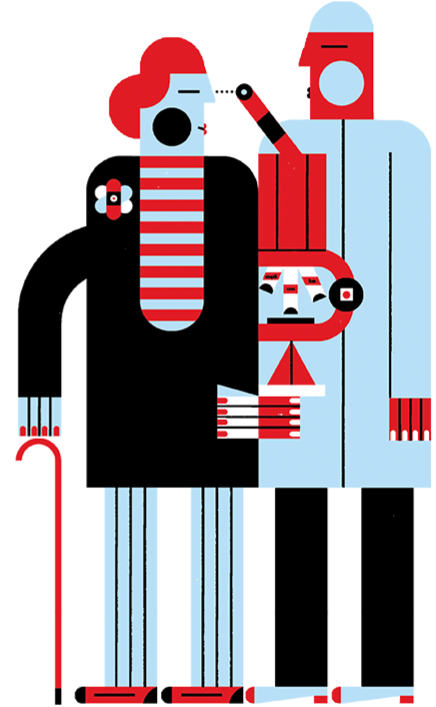
- Subject to the principles and directives governing the appropriate use of grant funds outlined in the [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration](#).
- Cannot be used to buy equipment, products or services from, or on behalf of, any collaborating organization.
- NSERC-eligible direct costs of research in the Canadian project budget such as:
 - salary support for research trainees
 - salary support for technicians and research professional personnel
 - materials and supplies
 - activities that support collaborations and knowledge mobilization related to the project
 - activities to develop and grow the research collaborations with the international collaborator(s)
 - costs of equipment (some restrictions apply; see program description)
 - project management costs (up to 10% of the total direct research costs).

How to Apply: NRF & NSERC

Additional Reminders

- Full collaborative applications must be submitted to NRF's Integrated Research Support System (IRIS) by **October 7, 2026, before 6:00 pm (KST)**.
- Simplified applications must be submitted through NSERC's online system by **October 7, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)**.
- Please refer to the online descriptions and instructions for completing an application for more detailed information.
- **Additional Reminder for Korean researchers:** Lead Institution approval must be fully completed within the submission period. Applications lacking this approval cannot be processed.
- **Additional Reminder for Canadian researchers:** Consult with your institution's research office to confirm internal deadlines for submitting your application.

4. Questions?



Questions

Contact



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- ✓ [frequently asked questions](#)