

# Critical Industrial Technologies Initiative

## Call for Projects: Development and Commercialization Program

### Cost-Saving Critical Technology Solutions Serving the Agri-Food Sector

<b>Launch Date</b>	April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	<b>Application Deadline</b>	May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Available Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$100,000</li> <li>1:1 match from applicant</li> </ul>	<b>Timeline</b>	Maximum 6-month project duration
<b>Eligible Sectors</b>	Agri-Food	<b>Eligible Technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5G</li> <li>AI</li> <li>Blockchain</li> <li>Cybersecurity</li> <li>Quantum</li> <li>Robotics</li> </ul>
<b>Info Webinar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, April 23 2025 at 11 AM via Zoom</li> <li><a href="#">REGISTER</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Context</b>	<p>The Ontario Agri-Food sector has been under pressure to increase levels of production in response to ever-growing demands for food security. However, from producers through to processors, there is very little opportunity to increase prices to support the costs associated with increasing levels of production. All elements of the supply chain must look to reduce the costs of production to maintain and improve margins and profitability to ensure long-term viability of Ontario's Agri-Food sector.</p> <p>The adoption of Critical Technologies can play a major role in reducing production costs in the Agri-Food Sector. Through the <a href="#">Critical Industrial Technologies (CIT) initiative</a>, OCI is looking to support the development and commercialization of transformative solutions from Ontario-based companies to reduce production costs in the Agri-Food Sector.</p>		
<b>Project Call</b>	<p>The <a href="#">Critical Industrial Technologies (CIT) initiative</a> is looking for novel, innovative solutions specifically applicable to the Agri-Food sector that are easily adopted and readily scalable. Solutions may be suitable for any part of the supply chain and may include use cases such as robots to reduce labour costs, AI/ML-enhanced software for disease recognition, 5G enabled sensors to monitor processes or blockchain technology to support traceability.</p>		

<b>Opportunity</b>	<p>This is a unique opportunity for companies to receive funding support to develop and commercialize new, innovative solutions across the Agri-Food sector in to help ensure the future stability of Ontario's food supply.</p> <p>The <b>Development and Commercialization (DC)</b> program provides companies a unique opportunity to accelerate the development &amp; adoption of their critical technology solutions with up to \$100k of OCI support and no-cost Dev Site access for strategic testing in cutting-edge facilities.</p> <p><b>Development Sites (Dev Sites)</b> unlock an operational environment that reflect target markets for SMEs to validate their solutions, accelerating their go-to-market timeline within CIT core sectors.</p> <p>DC Project benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$100k to de-risk and offset the costs of product development activities</li> <li>• No-cost Dev Site access to validate products</li> <li>• Increased momentum for market penetration</li> <li>• Network development</li> <li>• Ecosystem navigation support</li> <li>• Strategic innovation partners</li> </ul>
<b>Project Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must be an Ontario-based Small Medium Enterprise (less than 500 full-time employees)</li> <li>• Applicants solution must incorporate at least one of the named Critical Technologies ie. 5G/AI/Blockchain/CyberSecurity/Quantum/Robotics</li> <li>• Project must utilize at least one of the CIT Dev Sites</li> <li>• Funding must be matched 1:1 by applicant company (cash or cash equivalent)</li> <li>• Companies may choose to collaborate with a strategic partner that represents potential for significant commercialization opportunities.</li> <li>• For full program details please see <a href="https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/cit/">https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/cit/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Process</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm eligibility with CIT Sector Manager or OCI Business Development Manager</li> <li>2. Project scoping with Technology Development Site Representative</li> <li>3. Completion of Online Application (with support from Sector Manager or BD Manager)</li> <li>4. Review Process</li> <li>5. Decision &amp; Next Steps</li> </ol>
<b>Contact</b>	<p>Please send inquiries to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob McMillan, CIT Agri-Food Sector Manager at <a href="mailto:rmcmillan@oc-innovation.ca">rmcmillan@oc-innovation.ca</a></li> <li>• OCI Business Development and Commercialization Manager - <a href="https://www.oc-innovation.ca/about/business-development-and-commercialization-contacts/">https://www.oc-innovation.ca/about/business-development-and-commercialization-contacts/</a></li> </ul>