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Request for Proposals | December 2025

Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN)
Geographic Scoring Solution for EV ChargeON – Community Sites Stream (Round 2)

Deadline for submission of proposals: January 2, 2026

1. Organization Description

The Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), established in 1987, is a leading not-for-profit organization that works with industry, academia and government. OCI focuses on ensuring that the people of Ontario reap the personal and economic benefits of leading-edge research underway at our publicly funded universities, colleges and research hospitals - research that can be transformed into technologies and services that enhance quality of life and help build a globally competitive, job-creating economy in Ontario.

OCI leads the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) initiative on behalf of the Government of Ontario. Supported by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT), the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skill Development (MLITSD), OVIN's mandate is to accelerate the development of the next generation of electric, connected, and autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies and lead the sector through significant change.

The Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network invites proposals from qualified vendors to develop and deliver a Geographic Scoring Solution to support the EV ChargeON Program.

EV ChargeON is Ontario's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure program, designed to expand access to public EV charging across the province.

This RFP outlines the requirements for a data-driven, objective scoring and mapping solution that will help OVIN identify gaps in existing infrastructure, forecast future demand, and prioritize funding to locations with the greatest need, with special consideration for Northern Ontario.

2. Objectives

EV ChargeON is a competitive, application-based grant program offering post-construction rebates for public EV charging infrastructure.

To support transparent, equitable, and data-driven decision-making, OVIN requires a Geographic Scoring Solution that:

- Forecasts EV charging demand across Ontario communities.
- Identifies infrastructure gaps based on current and projected needs.
- Scores applications geographically, aligned with EV ChargeON's merit criteria.

- These criteria may differ or apply uniquely to various streams.

- Accounts for regional disparities in infrastructure, socioeconomic conditions, and EV adoption.

The solution, to be completed February 1, 2026, must reflect the EV evaluation framework, which includes geospatial scoring, technology and site features, and alignment with program priorities.

Through the EV ChargeON Program, Projects will be categorized by the following two classifications and scored accordingly using separate geospatial mapping tools that score areas according to currently available charging infrastructure and expected charging needs. The two areas of focus are:

- **Public Corridor Charging:** refers to EV charging needs of those travelling longer distances on highways and major roads. The objective is to ensure that EV drivers can travel over the majority of Ontario's road network connecting communities in an EV without being limited on vehicle range. Priority areas for projects in this category are identified on the EV Charging Planning maps within 1.6km of major roads based on criteria such as traffic, expected EV adoption, and distance between chargers. Corridor charging will be met primarily by DCFC charging. Projects will be scored using Natural Resources Canada's Electric Vehicle Charging Planning map and corresponding area priority rating scale.

- **Public Community Charging:** refers to EV charging needs of local communities which are served publicly by accessible chargers. The objective of projects in this category is to serve charging needs of local residents, businesses, and visitors who require public charging close to where they live, work, or visit, and lack access to private charging. Priority areas for projects in this category will be located within the boundaries of a 'community' and further than 1.6km away from a highway. Priority areas for this category are scored based on proximity to nearby chargers, neighbouring traffic volume, population density, and access to home charging opportunities. Community charging needs will be met with a combination of L2 and DCFC chargers, depending on the mix of parking habits and distances travelled by EV drivers.

3. Key Components and Scope of Work

The focus of this RFP corresponds with the needs for a Public Community Charging Scoring Solution.

The successful proponent will deliver the following by **February 1, 2026**:

Site Prioritizing Solution

- Develop a community charging prioritization model for Ontario using square kilometre cells to support scoring EV ChargeON applications.

- Incorporate a range of geographic, demographic, infrastructure, and mobility factors to reflect charging demand, accessibility, and regional distinctions across Ontario.

- Score each cell on a scale (e.g., 1 to 5) indicating need for additional charging.

- Integrate NRCan's Priority Corridor Charging map and priority rankings into the Tool as an additional layer for OVIN to provide scoring values for Corridor projects.

Integration and Support

- Provide tools and/or dashboards for OVIN staff to access and interpret scoring data without Vendor support.
- Offer training and documentation for OVIN staff.
- Ensure compliance with data privacy and security standards.

4. Bidding Requirements

a. **Financial.** Daily/hourly rate as well as total cost for the project including any estimated expenses is to be provided.
b. **Proposal.** Descriptions of the approach and methodology. Detailed timelines and deliverables are to be provided. 30-minute interviews including a presentation on approach and methodology and Q&A may be scheduled with short-listed candidates.
c. **Collaborative Bids**. Consultants are welcome to submit collaborative bids in partnership with other vendors**.**
d. **Service Level.** Delivery of milestones on time and of a quality acceptable to OCI.
e. **Expertise.** CV and brief overview of proposed project's role and responsibility for each team member along with their relevant experience and qualifications are to be provided.
f. **Team Management**. Ensuring appropriate team size, taking into account the overlaps between tasks and reports and the need to develop multiple reports simultaneously.
g. **Terms and Conditions.**
    - Any information provided by OCI either in this RFP or in subsequent verbal or written communications shall be considered confidential and for express use in the preparation of this proposal.
    - All proposals submitted become the property of OCI and are to be received and held in confidence.
    - All data collected and all resulting reports and publications prepared by the successful bidder will be the exclusive property of OCI.
    - This RFP does not create an employment relationship. Individuals performing services required by the contract are not employees of OCI.
    - Any changes to scope of services and associated costs following execution of contract must be submitted in writing and are subject to approval by OCI.
    - The successful bidder will be paid upon submission of proper invoices to OCI at the prices stipulated on the contract, after completion of all project deliverables.
    - Invoices will contain the contract number and reference number.
h. **Conflict of Interest.** Arms-Length relationship or disclosure of potential conflict of interest is required.
i. **References.** A minimum of 3 references with details of work completed are to be provided.
j. **Evaluation Criteria.** Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

Skills and Expertise (30%)

- Understanding of the project objectives and context.
- Qualifications and expertise of team.
- Relevant experience and references in research, data analysis, future forecasting, and survey design/analysis, preferably in automotive, technology, electric vehicle, smart mobility sectors and/or the future of work.

Methodology (40%)

- Proposed approach and methodology to the project.
- How well does the proposal address RFP requirements.
- Management and organization of the assignment.
- Commitment to assignment timelines, deadlines, and overall terms and conditions.

Cost (30%)

- Justification of cost
- Breakdown of costs by activity
- Hourly/daily and total price submission of all direct and indirect costs

k. **Submission Format.** Proposals are to be submitted in free form electronically in Word and PDF format. Please have proposals named as "Company Name Submission_ChargeON _RFP_DD- MM-YYYY". The receipt will be confirmed via e-mail.

l. **Contact.** Send proposals submissions and any questions and additional information requests to Hazel Lo at hLo@oc-innovation.ca. Please note that any responses may be shared with all potential bidders.

m. **Bidding Process and Schedule.** The application deadline is January 2, 2026. Short-listed candidates may be invited for an interview, and references may be contacted at this time. Final selection is expected to be made by January 9, 2026. We reserve the right not to award the contract to any of those submitting proposals, and we may seek further responses.