

Request for Proposals | September 2026

Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN)

Annual Comprehensive Sector Report & Quarterly Specialized Reports-FY2026~27



Deadline for submission of proposals: October 6, 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 (MLTSD), 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.

OVIN builds upon Ontario's position as a world-leading automotive manufacturing and supply jurisdiction in addition to the large cluster of information and communication technology companies operating in the province. Ontario's high-quality post-secondary institutions, first class talent, innovative small and medium sized enterprises and infrastructure to support entrepreneurship ensures that the province is uniquely positioned to capture the economic opportunity of the advanced automotive and smart mobility technology space and lead the global mobility transformation.

Through resources such as research and development (R&D) funding, talent development, technology acceleration, business and technical supports, and demonstration grounds, OVIN provides a competitive advantage to Ontario-based automotive and mobility companies – allowing Ontario to reinforce its position as a North American leader in transformative automotive technologies, as well as transportation and infrastructure systems.

2. Objectives

To reinforce its position as a global thought leader in the sector, OVIN produces a series of informative and impactful reports that contribute to public understanding and awareness of Ontario's automotive technology and smart mobility landscape. Interested and qualified consultants and service providers are invited to submit proposals to produce five public facing reports for the 2026/2027 year, comprising **one Annual Comprehensive Sector Report, and four Quarterly Specialized Reports.**

The objective of the Annual Comprehensive Sector Report is to conduct a thorough analysis of the Ontario automotive and mobility sector, with a focus on showcasing its growth and advancement, particularly driven by OVIN's leadership and contributions to the ecosystem and thorough a specific lens given by OVIN. The analysis should highlight Ontario's value proposition and competitive advantages which have led to success and demonstrate ongoing progress by featuring case studies and success stories of local companies and organizations that have achieved significant growth and/or milestones. These success stories could revolve around significant investments from automakers, economic development outcomes, development and commercialization of new technologies, or the reinforcement and advancement of the automobility cluster and capabilities. It should identify current strengths and future opportunities that require strategic attention to maintain Ontario's leadership in the global automotive and mobility landscape. The report should provide an annual view of the state and performance of Ontario's automotive and mobility ecosystem, supported by the latest available data, primary research and key sector indicators. The report should also consider the evolving and expanding nature of ecosystem players, technologies, and their impact on various aspects of the economy, including but not limited to measures such as economic development, foreign direct investment, cross-sector opportunities, jobs created, etc. The report should provide key takeaways, and a forward-looking outlook on emerging trends, opportunities and areas of strategic importance for Ontario. Lastly, it should include a jurisdictional scan and highlight global best practices that Ontario can strive to emulate.

The Quarterly Specialized Reports will each provide an in-depth analysis on a specific topic mutually agreed upon by OVIN and the Consultant prior to drafting each report. The Consultant will conduct research and analysis on the chosen topic and will gather insights from subject matter experts through designed interviews, when needed, presenting specialized information in a digestible format that enhances education and awareness among the general public. These reports will explore trending and current topics of interest in the automotive, electric vehicle, and smart mobility sector as well as the other interconnected sectors, including but not limited to semiconductors, cybersecurity, energy and grid, defence and multi-use applications, artificial intelligence etc. The reports will also communicate highlights from Ontario's ecosystem and key opportunities across the sector to OVIN's stakeholders, as well as OVIN success stories in that area. The 2026/27 series of reports is expected to be more concise than OVIN's previously published reports while maintaining clarity, ensuring that all key messages and findings are effectively conveyed, and including more data visualization. The reports will also provide relevant national and global context, key takeaways, and a forward-looking outlook on the selected topic and its implications for Ontario.

These five public facing reports will serve as integral components of the OVIN initiative, playing a crucial role in driving thought leadership, advancing the sector, and informing the public about automotive technologies, electric vehicle smart mobility activities, and opportunities in Ontario. Moreover, they will demonstrate the potential environmental, social, and economic benefits of relevant investments and efforts in the sector.

3. Key Components and Requirements

One Annual Comprehensive Sector Report:

The Annual Comprehensive Sector Report assessment should include the following:

A thorough analysis of the automotive sector including developments in manufacturing, automotive technology, electric vehicles, connected autonomous vehicles and the smart mobility ecosystem in Ontario, including a description of the state of the sector and related technologies and trends, and a summary of the latest research, key results and outcomes from OVIN's programs and activities. The report should include storytelling on past, present, and future opportunities. This should include, but should not be limited to, the following:

- case studies (e.g., companies that have scaled, companies that have emerged, partnerships and other

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- relevant examples across the ecosystem)
 - spotlight on technology adoption/pilots/deployments (e.g., activities and initiatives by municipalities and other stakeholders)
 - technology spillover (i.e., highlighting impacts across other sectors such as goods movement, agriculture, mining, cyber security, aerial mobility, etc.)
 - Significant investments in the province across the automotive and mobility supply chain by subsector, technology area and geographical location.
 - a specific lens given by OVIN
 - a subsector analysis examining key areas of growth, emerging companies, investment trends, market developments, and other relevant factors shaping the sector landscape.
- Highlighting factors that position the Ontario ecosystem to be a global leader in the automotive sector including auto technology, electric vehicle and smart mobility technologies, taking into consideration the various elements of the ecosystem including:
 - Policies and regulations
 - Research, development and commercialization activities
 - Robust ecosystem, including SMEs, international enterprises, Research organizations and Post-Secondary Institutions (PSI)
 - Supporting physical and digital infrastructure
 - Piloting and testing
 - Supply chain strengths, gaps and opportunities
 - Ontario's benchmarking relative to selected national and global jurisdictions.
 - Consumer acceptance and adoption
 - Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
 - Talent, skills and workforce development implications.
 - Primary research conducted through interviews, surveys, focus group interviews, case studies and consultations with subject matter experts and relevant automotive and ecosystem stakeholders.
 - The proponent/consultant must identify the proposed primary research methods, stakeholder groups, and research instruments subject to OVIN approval prior to implementation.
 - Secondary data and existing research must be analyzed and synthesized to generate relevant insights, trends and implications, and should not be limited to the reproduction or summary of the existing information.
 - Clear visual representation of the finding through graphs, charts, geographic maps, comparative tables and other relevant report visualizations, with appropriate source and timeframe references.
 - All report graphics, design elements, and templates shall be developed in consultation with OVIN team and agreed upon prior to the submission of the draft deliverable.
 - A comprehensive market forecast, detailing key trends, barriers, opportunities, growth projections, and relevant data sources This assessment should also reflect on:
 - Developments, findings, and lessons learned from other jurisdictions in the national and global landscape.
 - Interactions with relevant sectors including manufacturing, critical minerals, information technology,

cyber security, aerial mobility, and other related sectors.

- Interactions between key players of the ecosystem including multinational enterprises (MNEs), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academic institutions, policy makers, jurisdictions, financial institutions, global players, and other pertinent organizations.
- Identify key opportunities to increase equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across Ontario's sector.
- Provide evidence-based conclusions and recommendations to strengthen Ontario's automotive and mobility ecosystem.
- A future outlook or forecast outlining anticipated market, technology and ecosystem developments.
- Prepare a web-ready summary content for the report for publication on the OVIN insights webpage, including a concise report overview, key findings, key takeaways and an infographic to accompany the full report download.

Four Quarterly Specialized Reports:

Each of the Quarterly Specialized Reports will cover a specific topic, to be agreed upon between OVIN and the Consultant prior to the drafting of each report. Each of the four reports should include the following:

- An in-depth analysis of the specific topic that has been selected for each report, including an overview of the ecosystem in Ontario and an analysis of current and emerging trends, opportunities and challenges associated with the topic.
- Key highlights and case studies from across Ontario to demonstrate the province's strengths and expertise on the topic.
- Relevant developments, market trends and case studies from other Canadian provinces and leading global jurisdictions in the specific area of focus.
- Case studies must include the outcomes, challenges, enabling factors, and lessons learned.
- Secondary data and existing research must be analyzed and synthesized to generate relevant insights, trends and implications, and should not be limited to the reproduction or summary of the existing information.
- Sufficient quantitative evidence — including data, statistics, and graphs, geographic maps, call-out boxes, comparative tables to illustrate key insights, along with access to any data sources required for this purpose.
- All report graphics, design elements, and templates shall be developed in consultation with the OVIN team and agreed upon prior to the submission of the draft deliverable.
- Conclusions, including opportunities to enhance Ontario's position as a global leader in the topic of focus.
- In addition, each report should include, but should not be limited to, the following components:
 - High-level overview of topic, including an analysis on why it is important for Ontario and/or the sector
 - Factors driving growth and/or change
 - Key players and market dynamics, and highlighting Ontario's unique position
 - Implications for skills, talent, and workforce development and the future of work
 - Opportunities to improve equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the sector
 - Spotlight on best practices/case studies as relevant, as well as OVIN's success stories in that area.
 - Primary research through interviews, surveys, consultations, or other appropriate research instruments subject to approval from the OVIN team prior to implementation.
 - The proponent/consultant must identify the proposed primary research methods, stakeholder groups

and research instruments subject to the OVIN team approval before implementation.

- A future outlook or forecast outlining anticipated market, technology and ecosystem developments.
- Key takeaways summarizing the most significant findings, insights and considerations arising from the report.
- Prepare a web-ready summary of content for the report for publication on the OVIN insights webpage, including a concise report overview, key findings, key takeaways and an infographic to accompany the full report download.

It is anticipated that the methodology employed for **all five reports** will include a collection of qualitative and quantitative research and data collection from primary and secondary sources, consultation with industry experts, and a strategic analysis of growth opportunities. The proposed research process and the quality of the associated analysis techniques will play an important role in the evaluation process. It is also required that the successful proponent will:

- I. Confirm the analysis objectives in consultation with the OVIN project team.
- II. Obtain confirmation from the OVIN project team regarding the topic for each Quarterly Specialized Report.
- III. Conduct a discovery process to review existing subject-related documents within the ecosystem.
- IV. Conduct a thorough review of the previously issued reports to avoid duplication and build upon the existing insights.
- V. Compile a dataset comprising the collected data for analysis purposes, accompanied by a description of the methods used for data collection and validation.
- VI. Design and implement suitable methods for data cleansing, processing, and analysis.
- VII. Prepare draft and final reports that address the aforementioned requirements, including a visually appealing executive summary of the findings. The executive summary shall be delivered in both (a) print-optimized PDF format and (b) web-ready HTML format. The HTML version must be provided as a standalone file (or set of files) suitable for direct upload and embedding on our website without additional formatting or conversion.

As part of the project management activities, the Consultant will prepare for and lead a kick-off meeting with OVIN, develop a workplan with detailed timelines for all project deliverables and deliver a status and/or weekly update meeting for the OVIN team.

4. Summary of Deliverables

The deliverables for this scope are summarized below:

- I. Project kick-off meeting
- II. **Quarterly Specialized Report #1:** The report deliverables consist of:
 - Draft report
 - Final report
 - Executive summary
 - Web-ready digital summary for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage
- III. **Quarterly Specialized Report #2:** The report deliverables consist of:
 - Draft report
 - Final report
 - Executive summary
 - Web-ready digital summary for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage

IV. Quarterly Specialized Report #3: The report deliverables consist of:

- Draft report
- Final report
- Executive summary
- Web-ready digital summary for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage

V. Quarterly Specialized Report #4: The report deliverables consist of:

- Draft report
- Final report
- Executive summary
- Web-ready digital summary for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage

VI. OVIN Annual Comprehensive Sector Report: The report deliverables consist of:

- Draft report
- Final report
- Executive summary
- Web-ready infographic summary for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage

The Consultant must also account for the following requirements for all deliverables:

- All report graphics, designs, and templates should be discussed and agreed with OVIN prior to the submission of the draft deliverable.
- Web-ready digital summaries should be developed as engaging, visually compelling digital content that highlights the key findings, insights, data, and takeaways from each report and is suitable for publication on the OVIN Insights webpage.
- All reports should be equipped with visually appealing and executive-ready data-evidenced graphs and visualizations, and the databases and resources which would be needed to prepare these graphs.
- An equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) lens must be used in the crafting of content and the design across all deliverables.
- All final deliverables must be provided in editable source formats (i.e. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or Excel as applicable), an AODA compliant PDF format, and a web-ready infographic summary for publication on the OVIN insights webpage.
- OVIN and OCI branding must be included across all final reports. No other branding or logos may be included, unless agreed upon by the OVIN project team in advance.

5. Timeline of Deliverables

The following timeline must be considered when developing the project workplan as part of the Consultant's response to this RFP. The Consultant(s) must further identify the overall approach to the project, work details, and schedule to complete all the required project tasks detailed in Section 3. It should be noted that the selected Consultant will work with the internal project team to finalize the work plan and confirm the timeline. However, the client may modify the date or order of the publishing for the deliverables and will inform the consultant accordingly.

RFP available on website	September 15th, 2026
Deadline for submission of proposals	October 6th, 2026
Decision by OCI	November 6th, 2026
Project kick-off	November 25th, 2026
Quarterly Specialized Report # 1 (First Draft)	January 5th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 1 (Final Version)	March 15th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 2 (First Draft)	April 5th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 2 (Final Version)	June 15th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 3 (First Draft)	July 5th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 3 (Final Version)	September 14th, 2027
Annual Comprehensive Sector Report (First Draft)	May 10th, 2027
Annual Comprehensive Sector Report (Final Version)	August 16th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 4 (First Draft)	October 5th, 2027
Quarterly Specialized Report # 4 (Final Version)	December 10th, 2027
Project closing	December 2027

6. Bidding Requirements

a. Proposal Requirements:

Proponents are required to submit a complete proposal addressing the requirements outlined in this RFP. The proposal should include the following:

- **Financial.** Daily/hourly rate as well as total cost for the project including any estimated expenses.
- **Proposed Methodology.** A description of the proposed approach and methodology, including detailed timelines and deliverables.
- **Expertise.** CV including relevant experience/qualifications and brief overview of role and responsibilities for each team member planned to be assigned to the project.
- **Team Management.** A proposed team structure and size that takes into account the overlaps between tasks and reports and the need to develop multiple reports simultaneously.
- **References.** A minimum of 3 references with details of work completed.

b. Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

Skills and Expertise (30%)

- The project delivery team comprises a diverse group of qualified individuals, each bringing relevant subject matter expertise to support the successful delivery of the project.
- Demonstrates understanding of the project objectives and context.
- Relevant experience and references in primary and secondary research including data analysis, surveys, interviews, and other research methods, with experience in synthesizing findings from primary/secondary research into meaningful insights.

Methodology (40%)

- Proposed approach and methodology of the project is clear, detailed and feasible.
- Proposed approach includes the types of information and research that will inform the vendor's reports.
- How well does the proposal address RFP requirements.
- Proposed approach demonstrates strong analysis and interpretation of the data and effective visualization of key findings and insights. Project management and proposed organization of the assignment is clear, with 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

c. Shortlisting and Interview Process.

30-minute interviews including a presentation on approach and methodology, Q&A, and samples of relevant work to showcase experience and capabilities may be scheduled with short-listed candidates. Final selection will be made after the completion of the evaluation process. OCI reserves the right not to award a contract to any submitted proposals and seek further responses.

d. 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 the 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.
- Arms-Length relationship or disclosure of potential conflict of interest is required.
- Consultants are welcome to submit collaborative bids in partnership with other vendors.

e. Submission Format.

Proposals are to be submitted in free form electronically in Word and PDF format. Please have proposals named as “Company Name Submission_OVIN_Reports _RFP_DD- MM-YYYY”. The receipt will be confirmed via e-mail.

f. Contact.

Send proposals submissions and any questions and additional information requests to Ishtdeep Singh at isingh@oc-innovation.ca . Please note that any responses may be shared with all potential bidders.