



CARBON CAPTURE KICKSTART

*\$30 million for design
and engineering*

Online Submission:

ERAadmin.ca

Deadline:

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5 PM Mountain Time

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
GUIDELINES



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Legal Notice

Emissions Reduction Alberta is a registered tradename of the Climate Change and Emissions Management (CCEMC) Corporation and is referred to as ERA throughout this document. By submitting an Expression of Interest (“EOI”), you confirm that you have read, understand and accept the information contained in this Call for Proposals and, that each of you, the applicant (the “Proponent”), and any project partners agree as follows:

- a) ERA may at any time suspend, terminate, cancel, withdraw, amend or alter all or any portion of this request for proposals (“RFP”) EOI stage (“EOI Stage”), including but not limited to the EOI requirements, the EOI selection and review process and the EOI eligibility criteria.
- b) ERA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject any or all EOIs for any reason. ERA is not required to accept the highest ranked EOI nor is it required to accept any EOI recommended for advancement to the presentation stage by the applicable ERA evaluators.
- c) The final decision with respect to the projects to be included in the EOI short-list rests solely with ERA Board of Directors (“Board of Directors”). The Board of Directors’ evaluation of EOIs may be based on, but is not in any way limited to, the criteria set out in this RFP. The Board of Directors may consider any criteria determined by the Board of Directors to be relevant to ERA’s mandate, regardless of whether such additional criteria have been disclosed to the Proponent.
- d) EOIs that do not comply with the requirements described in this RFP may be rejected in whole or in part or not considered by ERA. ERA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject a non-compliant EOI.
- e) This EOI Stage is an invitation for EOIs only. It is not an offer and the submission of an EOI does not create a contract or agreement of any kind between ERA and the Proponent.
- f) No conduct, act or omission of CCEMC, CCEMC operating as ERA, or its directors, officers, consultants, project advisors, agents, servants and their respective successors and assigns (collectively the “ERA Parties”) other than a written notice to the Proponent in writing signed by an authorized person for ERA, will constitute an acceptance of an EOI.
- g) Acceptance of an EOI does not create any binding contract between ERA and the Proponent. ERA shall not be obligated in any matter whatsoever to any Proponent until a written contribution agreement (“Contribution Agreement”) between CCEMC operating as ERA and the Proponent has been duly executed relating to an approved proposal.
- h) As between the parties, the EOI and all documents and materials you submit to ERA in connection with the EOI Stage and all intellectual property in and to the foregoing are the exclusive property of ERA immediately upon delivery to ERA. For clarity, this refers to the materials themselves, not to any technology or innovations disclosed or discussed in them. Intellectual property developed during the course of the project will be addressed through the Contribution Agreement and will normally be owned by the Proponent.
- i) You, the Proponent and any project partners will keep this EOI Stage confidential and will not use, reproduce or distribute it, any portion of it, or any data, information, drawings, or

specifications included in or provided with it except as necessary to prepare additional materials as requested by ERA.

- j) Neither ERA nor any of ERA Parties will have any liability whatsoever to you, the Proponent or any project partners, or any of them, in connection with this EOI Stage or any EOI prepared in response to it.
- k) You, the Proponent and any project partners will not make a claim against CCEMC, CCEMC operating as ERA or ERA Parties for any reason whatsoever or howsoever relating to this EOI Stage. You are undertaking the expenditures required to prepare and submit an EOI entirely at your own risk, and you waive any right and release ERA and ERA Parties from any demands, liability, claim or recovery for costs, expenses, or damages incurred whatsoever or howsoever arising out of or relating to this EOI Stage or any EOI prepared in response to it, whether such right or claim arises in contract, negligence or otherwise.
- l) ERA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied during this EOI Stage process by ERA or ERA Parties.

1 Introduction

1.1 About ERA

Emissions Reduction Alberta (“ERA”) is a registered tradename of the Climate Change and Emissions Management (CCEMC) Corporation. For more than 12 years, ERA has been investing the revenues from the carbon price paid by large final emitters to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative clean technology solutions. Since inception in 2009, ERA has committed \$821 million to 221 projects worth over \$6.4 billion that are helping to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, create competitive industries, and lead to new business opportunities in Alberta. These projects are estimated to deliver cumulative GHG reductions of 42 million tonnes CO₂e by 2030.

1.2 Document Scope

This Call for Proposals (“Call”) is inviting submissions to be evaluated in a competitive funding process. The process has two stages of evaluation: a proposal stage and a presentation stage, followed by Contribution Agreement development and execution. These instructions provide information about the proposal stage only. Information specific to the presentation stage will be available when presentation invitations are made.

Note: Applicants who have questions about the submission and evaluation process or who wish to discuss their potential submission with ERA are invited to email applications@eralberta.ca. Inquiries will be directed to appropriate personnel within ERA.

2 Call for Proposals Scope

2.1 Background and Context

Over time, carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration (CCS or CCUS) technologies have gained increasing traction in Alberta and worldwide as a meaningful part of the technology solution for achieving emissions reduction targets by 2050. Despite low uptake to date, CCUS technologies are an area of intense industry and government interest as a key emissions reduction opportunity. In particular, large scale carbon capture is viewed as an essential component of a pathway to net-zero emissions for difficult-to-abate industrial sectors and could also enable a future hydrogen economy in Alberta via low-emissions hydrogen production from natural gas.

Alberta has thus far played a leading role in scale up and commercialization of CCUS technologies and has been the host of a number of world-first commercial carbon capture, transportation, sequestration, and utilization projects to date. ERA has a strong history of collaboration with industry partners to invest in CCUS projects in Alberta. Barriers to initiating large-scale projects in Alberta remain, including high capital costs and challenges around site-specific CCUS technology integration. Alberta’s large facility operators have expressed interest in accelerating development

and deployment of CCUS technologies and have called for greater up-front government support to de-risk large scale CCUS investments. Additional federal and provincial policies are under consideration to encourage CCUS deployment; development of such policies will be supported by expanding the knowledge base and capacity around carbon capture opportunities and by building a roster of “ready to proceed” carbon capture projects. The carbon capture portion of CCUS projects is where the most significant capital expenditures are needed and therefore the largest need for high quality cost estimates.

The purpose of this Call is to accelerate implementation of CCUS technologies in Alberta by reducing the technical and budgetary uncertainty around the feasibility of industrial-scale carbon capture in the local context. The Call will focus on establishing stepping stones toward significant investments in CCUS projects in Alberta by funding pre-construction studies of facility-specific carbon capture opportunities. This Call will not fund detailed engineering, construction, commissioning, or operating costs for CCUS projects, but instead will support feasibility or Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) studies (“Studies”) to accelerate future implementation. The Call will be predominantly focused on technologies at high technology readiness level, but with significant upfront design requirements on a facility basis.

By supporting CCUS Studies, ERA hopes to:

- Improve understanding of the current costs associated with large-scale adoption of carbon capture to better inform investment decisions.
- Provide industry and government with increased lines of sight to the feasibility and integration requirements of large-scale CCUS projects in Alberta across various industrial sectors.
- De-risk initiation of industrial-scale carbon capture and transportation projects and catalyze substantial follow-on investment for projects that have favorable study findings.
- Build Alberta’s capabilities and develop a qualified workforce familiar with carbon capture and transportation technologies, enhancing Alberta’s position as a leader in the area.
- Increase coordination with the Government of Alberta’s recently announced carbon sequestration hub approach.

2.2 Call Focus

ERA’s *Carbon Capture Kickstart Challenge* (the Call) is seeking proposals for Studies that will develop critical insights, build momentum, and accelerate decision-making for investments into industrial-scale carbon capture and transport projects in Alberta.

For the purposes of this Call, ERA has adopted the following definitions:

- *Study*: Pre-construction activities including (but not limited to) technology selection, analysis, feasibility assessment, estimation, budgeting, resource allocation, planning, initial regulatory engagement, and preliminary engineering design that will result in a written report on either the feasibility or front-end design elements of a future large-scale carbon capture *project*.

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- *Ultimate Project*: The actual implementation of CCUS at Alberta site(s), consisting of financing, detailed engineering, procurement, permitting, manufacturing/fabrication, construction, commissioning, and operation of physical CCUS infrastructure.

In this Call, ERA funding will **only** be provided for *Studies*. No costs related to the *Ultimate Project* will be considered eligible. All studies **must** pertain to a specific ultimate project. Studies that focus on generic (non-facility-specific) implementation of CCUS or that do not have a clear line of sight to an ultimate project are ineligible for this Call.

For the purposes of this Call, ERA has established the following definitions for CCUS technology components:

- *Carbon capture* is the creation of a concentrated stream of high-purity CO₂ from sources including flue gas streams, process emission streams, and others. Examples of capture technologies are summarized below.
- *Direct Air Capture* is the creation of a purified stream of CO₂ from the ambient air.
- *CO₂ transportation* is the compression and conveyance infrastructure (including pipelines) required to transport captured CO₂ from the site boundary to the sequestration location.
- *CO₂ utilization* is the direct use or conversion of captured CO₂ into useful products.
- *CO₂ sequestration* is the final storage of CO₂ in geologic reservoirs.

This Call is open to studies in the following areas:

- Onsite carbon capture: production of a pure CO₂ stream from combustion and/or processes at the point of emissions. Studies funded in this Call must consider the entire scope of carbon capture operations onsite, at a minimum up to the point of CO₂ preparation for transport.
- Direct Air Capture: production of a pure CO₂ stream from ambient air. Studies funded in this Call must consider the entire scope of direct air capture operations, at a minimum up to the point of CO₂ preparation for transport.
- Direct carbon conversion: implementation of an onsite process that directly absorbs carbon into a product at the point of emissions. For clarity, carbon conversion and utilization technologies are only eligible if they capture carbon directly from onsite CO₂ streams. Carbon utilization projects not located within an industrial site and/or that do not directly use industrial CO₂ as feedstock are not eligible.
- Carbon Capture and transportation networks: integrated approaches combining multiple capture points and the transportation infrastructure to link multiple specific capture sites to a common network. For clarity, studies must include both capture and transportation systems to be eligible. Point-to-point transportation projects with a single input CO₂ stream are not eligible.
- Studies may cover multiple eligible areas (for example, carbon capture coupled to a transportation network.) For clarity, transportation components are only eligible if they involve a transportation network; funding will not be provided for studies of point-to-point transportation projects with a single CO₂ source.

All proposals must provide a clear line of sight to how the ultimate project will secure *transportation* and permanent *sequestration* or *utilization* of captured emissions; however, studies whose primary focus is point-to-point transportation or sequestration elements are not eligible.

All proposals must target a specific large final emitter site in Alberta. Only studies targeting existing facilities are eligible; studies will not be accepted for projects that contemplate carbon capture for new facilities or major facility expansions. Nature-based carbon sequestration (e.g.: soil carbon enhancement, afforestation, etc.) and other diffuse/distributed carbon dioxide removal technologies are not eligible. The above eligibility restrictions do not apply to direct air capture projects or carbon transportation network projects.

Studies eligible for funding in this Call must target an ultimate project with a capture rate of at least 200 ktCO₂ annually. For transportation network projects, the minimum scale is an annual transport volume of 1 MtCO₂.

Examples of carbon capture technologies that could be considered by studies eligible for this Call include without limitation:

- Chemical absorption and concentration of CO₂ in a cyclic manner, such as amine-based carbon capture or capture via enzymes.
- Physical concentration and purification of CO₂ via cryogenics, pressure swing, and/or the use of sorbent materials.
- Oxy-fuel combustion to produce a pure CO₂ stream, including required upstream technologies such as oxygen plants.
- Direct capture/separation of CO₂ streams generated from non-combustion industrial processes.
- Emerging capture solutions including chemical-looping combustion or direct sequestration of CO₂ in onsite carbon utilization processes.

This Call is not open to studies focused on currently practiced, commercially proven CCUS activities such as Acid Gas Injection.

Note: The size of opportunity and potential for widespread GHG and economic benefits will be taken into consideration during ERA's proposal selection. ERA reserves the right to consider optimal portfolio balance and strategic mandate alignment when selecting proposals for funding.

2.3 Study Structure

Funding made available through this process is provided for completion of studies with well-defined objectives, milestones, deliverables, and timelines. Applicants must clearly delineate the scope of the study for which ERA funding is being requested and the ultimate project that the study will advance. Any related work completed concurrently or before the study term but outside the scope of the study may be discussed in the proposal but should be clearly indicated as such.

2.4 Stage of Development

In their report [The NEED for FEED](#), the International CCS Knowledge Centre identifies the following stages for CCUS projects:



Proposals are invited for studies at the **Feasibility** and/or **FEED** stage of development.

The underlying technologies to be assessed by the studies funded in this Call must be at a sufficient level of technical and commercial development that they are ready for a commercial-scale project at an actual industry site. It is incumbent upon applicants to clearly identify and justify the readiness of the technologies that are contemplated in their proposal.

Submissions are encouraged for studies that will build upon existing work (such as performing a FEED study for a project where a feasibility study has already been completed). However, proposals

must demonstrate how the study will advance the project beyond the current state—studies focused on updating previous work without adding detail are not eligible.

2.5 Project and Study Location

All studies supported through this Call must focus on an ultimate project that will occur within Alberta. A minimum of 50% of study expenses must be incurred in Alberta. However, there are no limitations on the location of applicants, funders, technology providers, and project partners.

2.6 Eligible Applicants

This Call is open to all categories of lead applicant, including technology developers, industry operators, industrial associations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), municipalities, and others. Applicant organizations and partners are not required to be located in Alberta. However, all studies must include the site host (building owner, facility operator, etc.) as lead applicant or a significant partner.

Collaboration between multiple organizations is eligible and encouraged for this opportunity. Collaboration between partners can often represent a strong value proposition by demonstrating opportunities for technology validation, commercialization, and sharing of results. Collaborations between facilities within a region can also represent high value propositions by increasing the scale of total reductions and enabling cost reductions through common infrastructure and economies of scale.

Applicants are encouraged to engage and include Alberta's post-secondary and research institutions in project consortia where appropriate. These partnerships can offer multiple benefits, including the attraction and training of highly skilled workers who can increase Alberta's innovation capacity in the areas of focus for this Call.

There are no restrictions on the number of proposals that can be submitted by any applicant. However, applicants are encouraged to be selective and bring forward only the most promising and highest quality submissions.

Projects with existing funding from ERA (completed or active) are not eligible to apply for further funding through this Call.

2.7 International CCS Knowledge Centre

The [International CCS Knowledge Centre](#) (Knowledge Centre) is dedicated to advancing the understanding and use of large-scale CCS/CCUS as a means of managing GHG emissions. The Knowledge Centre offers insight into practical CCS deployment considerations. The Knowledge Centre places a high value on information and expertise that is permitted to be broadly shared with multiple parties. This promotes research, innovation, and deployment by reducing the cost and risk associated with new CCS projects domestically and around the world. For this Call, ERA is partnering with the Knowledge Centre to enhance study outcomes and sharing of results.

During ERA-funded studies, recipients of ERA funding may elect to engage the Knowledge Centre for technical and/or regulatory advice and support for activities including study definition, execution, reporting, and/or knowledge sharing. ERA will directly fund a portion of such engagement with the Knowledge Centre, above and beyond the ERA contribution to the study. The quantity of hours funded by ERA will be determined at the contracting stage but will be capped at a consistent maximum for all projects. Additional hours of work above this cap are eligible study expenses (provided the scope meets ERA's eligibility guidelines). All planned hours of Knowledge Centre support should be included in the ERA budget.

Applicants may also engage with the Knowledge Centre for assistance with proposal development at their own expense. Please note that the Knowledge Centre will not be involved in the evaluation of proposals under this Call, and collaboration with the Knowledge Centre on a proposal will not affect ERA's selection of studies to fund.

ERA will also partner with the Knowledge Centre to enhance the dissemination of results and learnings from the funded studies (see Section 3.4).

3 Terms of Funding

3.1 Total Funds Available

The total funding available for projects supported through this Call is up to **\$30 million** Canadian Dollars (\$CAD).

3.2 Cost Sharing

The minimum funding request to ERA for any one study is **\$1 million CAD** and the maximum is **\$5 million CAD**. ERA will only match contributions toward eligible expenses on a one-to-one (1:1) basis. As such, the maximum ERA contribution to a single study will be no more than **50%** of the study's eligible expenses.

Projects may request an additional \$2.5 million CAD (**to a maximum of \$7.5 million CAD in ERA funding**) in cases where funding is requested by a consortium of multiple participants for a single study covering the entire CO₂ value chain from capture to permanent sequestration. For clarity, ERA's contribution will only be allocated to the upstream/midstream (capture/transport) components of any study even if a sequestration component is included.

ERA will only match unencumbered cash contributions for eligible expenses. ERA will not match other federal, provincial, or international government funds provided directly for the proposed study or future revenue associated with the outcomes of the project, including for example: offset/performance credits associated with the project; tax incentives associated with the project, such as Canadian SR&ED credits; and revenue from sale of the project's outputs or products. However, the presence of such revenue sources does not disqualify a study from eligibility and may be noted in the EOI to strengthen the risk profile of the proposal.

For information about eligible expenses and costs, please refer to the ERA *Eligible Expenses and Cost Instructions* document available at <http://eralberta.ca/apply-for-funding>.

Note: Applicants must justify the amount of funding requested. ERA may choose at its sole discretion to award funding for less than the requested amount.

3.3 Contribution Agreement

Successful applicants will enter into a contribution agreement (“Contribution Agreement”) with ERA, which will address the study scope, work plan, milestones, deliverables, performance targets, payment schedule, reporting requirements, terms of funding, and other aspects related to ERA’s funding contribution.

3.4 Outcomes Reporting and Knowledge Sharing

The purpose of this Call is to provide valuable information to support investment decisions and policy and program design for the province as a whole. Funding recipients will be required to report on project outcomes, achievements, and lessons learned, including without limitation GHG reductions (actual and projected), job creation, and other environmental, economic, and social benefits.

ERA is committed to encouraging widespread knowledge dissemination from funded projects to maximize the benefit of our participation. As part of the ERA Contribution Agreement, successful applicants will be expected to commit to the following at minimum:

- Publication of study learnings and key outcomes following completion.
- Publication in whole or in part (where confidentiality is needed to protect equipment supplier intellectual property) of the completed study.
- Recipient participation in an annual confidential roundtable with other recipients to discuss and share learnings and best practices.
- Sharing of knowledge and data with the International CCS Knowledge Centre.
- Recipient participation in a wrap-up public “Lessons Learned” event to broadly share the high-level outcomes of their studies.
- Recipient provision of Post Study Reports to inform ERA on study outcomes and ultimate project progress for a period of no less than five (5) years.

3.5 Study Term

Studies funded under this Call must be completed by December 31, 2024. Preference will be given for studies focused on ultimate projects that have a high likelihood of being fully operational before January 1, 2030.

3.6 Study Initiation

ERA will only contribute toward costs incurred after the date of ERA funding approval. Costs incurred prior to ERA funding approval will be considered out of scope, will not be considered eligible study costs, and are not eligible for fund matching from ERA. Furthermore, no disbursements will be made prior to execution of a Contribution Agreement with ERA, and any study costs incurred prior to execution of a Contribution Agreement will not be reimbursed by ERA in the event that an agreement is not executed.

Studies must commence within three (3) months of ERA funding approval. Readiness to proceed will be assessed for each proposal and will contribute to ERA's funding decision.

3.7 Trusted Partner Funding Leverage and Proposal Sharing

ERA is working in partnership with other funding organizations in Alberta and across Canada. In some cases, there may be an opportunity for ERA to share applicants' proposals with trusted partners and explore possibilities to leverage funding available from these organizations.

During the submission process, applicants will have the opportunity to give ERA permission to share their submissions with trusted funding partners of ERA, where applicable. Please note that ERA will only share applications for the purposes of exploring further funding and with partners where ERA has a non-disclosure agreement in place. An applicant's preference regarding whether to allow sharing of their application will not influence ERA's assessment of their proposal.

In 2021, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) launched a funding program entitled "CCUS – Front End Engineering & Design Studies." The NRCan program shares significant alignment with this Call in terms of eligible applicants and targeted outcomes. The EOI stage of the NRCan program saw significant oversubscription with very strong participation from Alberta based applicants. ERA and NRCan have a Trusted Partnership agreement and will work to reduce barriers to applicants. In the context of this Call, ERA will work with NRCan to consider opportunities for cofunding or referral of proposals between programs, as well as collaborating on knowledge sharing for selected projects. Furthermore, applicants that have been shortlisted to submit Full Project Proposals (FPPs) to NRCan may elect to submit their NRCan FPP in lieu of ERA's EOI template in order to reduce the amount of re-work required of applicants. It is the responsibility of applicants who choose this option to ensure their proposal addresses all key information required for ERA to make a funding decision. As such, ERA encourages NRCan finalists to supplement their NRCan FPP with a brief appendix **(maximum of eight (8) pages)** using ERA's EOI template to ensure that ERA has sufficient information to assess the proposal according to the criteria laid out in Section 5.1.

4 Submission Details

4.1 Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of proposals in response to this Call is **Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time (UTC-7h)**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to complete their submissions well in advance of the deadline. Furthermore, ERA will not accept partial or incomplete submissions. All required content must be uploaded and inserted into ERA's Emissions Reduction Information Management System ("ERIMS") at <http://www.eraadmin.ca/> and the submission must be finalized by completing all necessary online steps in order for the proposal to be considered complete. Applicants will receive an automatically generated email confirming receipt of the proposal upon submission. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your junk/spam folder and try to resubmit. If the problem persists, applicants should contact IMS@eralberta.ca for assistance.

4.2 Funding Process and Timelines

Recognizing the need for rapid progress and the reduced evaluation requirements associated with studies, ERA has implemented a modified intake process specific to this Call:



ERA will accept Expression of Interests (EOIs) from all interested applicants. ERA will review all EOIs in a competitive process to establish a shortlist of strong opportunities. Applicants on the shortlist will be invited to present to ERA's expert review panel and will be subjected to additional due diligence. The review panel will then provide a funding recommendation to ERA's Board of Directors.

The following timelines are anticipated for the full funding process. Note that ERA reserves the right to alter these timelines or cancel the Call.

Action	By Whom	Timing
Proposal Submission Deadline	Applicants	March 3 2022
Shortlist Notification / Presentation Invitations	ERA	Late April 2022
Presentation sessions	Applicants	May 2022
Funding Decision Notification	ERA	June 2022

4.3 Submission Content

Proposals must be submitted using the ERIMS at www.eraadmin.ca. Users must create an account and complete all mandatory forms to submit an application. Each submission must consist of the following:

- **Expression of Interest (EOI) Document:** This document will form the basis of ERA’s evaluation, and must fully address each of the evaluation criteria.
- **Detailed Study Budget:** All applicants must complete and upload a detailed budget using the Excel template provided on the ERIMS. The completed budget must be uploaded separately to the ERIMS in the original Excel format. For further guidance, please contact applications@eralberta.ca.
- **Letters of Support (Optional):** Letters of support from partnering organizations, funding sources, site hosts, etc., may be uploaded as an appendix to the EOI document. Please combine all letters of support into a single PDF attachment.
- **Online Information:** In addition to the documents outlined above, applicants are also required to enter general information about the project into the ERIMS online system.

Note: Only the required documents and information described above will be reviewed. Any additional attachments, materials or information appended to the required documents will not be considered during the evaluation.

Note - required file naming convention: All documents uploaded to the ERIMS will have the EOI number and applicant name automatically appended to the filename. Please do not include the EOI number or full corporate legal name in filenames. Applicants are encouraged to use short filenames (no more than 20 characters) with no special characters to ensure their files are processed correctly.

4.4 Submission Standards

A response template will be provided on the ERIMS for the EOI document during the application process. Applicants must use the response template to ensure that all necessary information is provided in a consistent and practical manner. Applications that fail to use the template may not be considered.

The final EOI document must be uploaded in PDF format and may be no more than twenty (20) letter-sized (8.5" x 11") pages in length, including all text, graphics, and tables. **Any extra pages beyond the limit will be removed from the document and will not be considered by the evaluators.** The document must use Calibri (or Arial) 11-point font with a minimum of 1.0 line spacing. Margins must be no smaller than 2.54 cm (1"). Only one document may be uploaded per submission.

For projects attaching an NRCan submission, the appendix addressing ERA specific information not included in the NRCan FPP may be no more than 8 pages.

Note: The page limit does not include the study budget or the optional letters of support.

4.5 Applicant Support and Contact Information

Applicants are welcome to contact ERA at any time throughout the process for support and guidance on completing their application. ERA will answer questions regarding the guidelines, template, ERIMS, evaluation criteria, and process, but will not provide pre-reviews or feedback on proposal content. Before contacting ERA, applicants are encouraged to read the FAQ document available on the Call website and to carefully consult the guidelines and template.

The points of contact for this Call are as follows:

- Assistance with Call guidelines, budget, and template: applications@eralberta.ca
- Assistance with ERIMS online application system and submission: IMS@eralberta.ca
- Other information and general inquiries: applications@eralberta.ca

Please allow up to one week for responses to email inquiries due to high anticipated volumes. Use of alternate email addresses such as ERA's general information email or media contact email may result in a response to your request being delayed.

5 Evaluation

5.1 Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria on the following page. Each of the evaluation criteria below is assigned a relative weighting. Applicants are encouraged to consider these weightings when developing their proposals. The prompts and instructions found in the EOI template provide additional detail on the specific considerations within each criterion.

Criterion	Description	Weight
Ultimate project outcomes		35
Ultimate project opportunity	Proposals will be assessed on the quality of the opportunity associated with the ultimate project, including the type and relevance of host facility, market/industry need for CCUS (e.g.: emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors), strength and innovation of the proposed CCUS technology solution(s), ultimate project costs (e.g.: capital investment required, operating costs, abatement cost per tonne), project financing plan, the quality of the linkages to transportation and permanent sequestration elements, unique site integration considerations, and incorporation of novel solutions e.g., heat integration.	15
Ultimate project benefits	Proposals will be assessed on the benefits expected from the ultimate project, including the expected scale of CO ₂ capture (rate, proportion, annual, and cumulative), expected scale of investment (private v public), economic benefits (local spending and job creation), competitiveness benefits to the host facility, alignment with facility/corporate net zero objectives, other environmental benefits, and additional public benefits.	20
Study quality and strategic value		45
Study impact and progression	Proposals will be evaluated on the potential for the study to advance the ultimate project <i>and</i> the overall state of CCUS technology, including the role of study in ultimate project progression, line of sight from study to final investment decision on the ultimate project, technical/commercial outcomes and deliverables achieved by the study, contributions to advancement of CCUS technology and readiness, and the timeline from Study completion to the ultimate project in-service date.	25
Study benefits and knowledge sharing	Proposals will be evaluated based on the direct benefits of the study, including economic benefits to Alberta (study jobs and investment), development of capacity and highly-skilled personnel, collaboration with post-secondary institutions, partnerships including development of networks, connectivity and alignment with sequestration hubs and policies, replicability and transferability of results to other similar industrial sites, and the quality of the knowledge sharing plan.	20
Study implementation		20
Study plan and readiness	Proposals will be evaluated on the quality of implementation plan for the Study, including the work scope, budget, study design (milestones, metrics, targets), the study financing plan, the capacity/commitment of Study team and consortium, the role of the site partner, the strategy for risk management, and the overall readiness to process with the Study upon ERA funding decision.	20
Total		100

5.2 Eligibility Screening Criteria

In addition to the evaluation criteria described above, projects may be screened out based on one or more of the following factors:

- Insufficient relevance of the technology or approach to Alberta.
- Ultimate Project site not in Alberta or site host not included in project consortium.
- Ultimate Project does not target an existing large emitter site (not applicable to DAC/transport projects.)
- Insufficient GHG reduction potential, such as an annual reduction potential less than 200 kt/yr (or less than 1 Mt/yr for transportation projects.)
- Risk of detrimental side effects (environmental, economic, social, etc.).
- Insufficient information provided.
- Proposal not written in English.
- Proposal not sufficiently readable or comprehensible.
- Proposal does not conform to the submission standards.
- Proposed project is inconsistent with the intent or scope of this Call.
- Study scope not aligned with Call guidelines.

5.3 Next Steps

Some applicants whose proposals are well aligned with ERA's mandate, the goals of the Call, and the evaluation criteria will be shortlisted and invited to present their proposal to the ERA review panel. Presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. ERA will use information from both the proposal and presentation stage to inform a funding decision on all shortlisted proposals. Further information regarding presentations and final ERA funding decisions will be made available at the time of invitation to the shortlist.

All applicants who submit a proposal through this Call will be notified of ERA's decision when the proposal review process is complete. Applicants whose proposals are not accepted may arrange a short debrief phone call with ERA to receive feedback. Information about arranging a debrief phone call will be provided in the notification letter.

5.4 Note on Proposal Quality

This is a highly competitive process, and not all proposals will be shortlisted. Success at the proposal stage depends on the quality of the proposal submitted. Only the highest quality proposals will be invited to present to ERA's review panel. In this regard, "quality" means both the quality of the proposed study/project relative to the evaluation criteria and the quality of the written proposal (clarity, completeness, etc.).

6 Intellectual Property

Intellectual property will be addressed through a Contribution Agreement between ERA and each successful applicant, and will be specific to the circumstances of each project. However, a few general principles apply:

- Background IP (patents, copyrights, software, etc.) and third-party technology remains with its original owner(s).
- ERA retains rights to study results, including without limitation the technical data, reports, analysis, and discussion.
- Study outcomes, results, and learnings will normally be made publicly available at the conclusion of the project, with a requirement to participate in knowledge sharing activities during the study timeframe. Please refer to Section 3.4.
- Technology (based on patent disclosures) developed as a part of the co-funded activities will be owned by the successful applicant and its partners, in accordance with the IP arrangement between project partners. However, successful applicants will be expected to commercialize and/or make the technology available through reasonable commercial terms for the benefit of Alberta.

7 Confidentiality

ERA is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c.F-25 in the course of performing duties and functions and exercising powers delegated to it. All data and records in the custody or under the control of ERA that are required in the performance of duties or functions or the exercise of powers delegated to ERA are subject to the *Records Management Regulation*, Alberta Regulation 244/2001.

Subject to the requirements described above, ERA is governed by a comprehensive Privacy, Data Security and Confidentiality Policy (the “Policy”). The Policy requires that any and all information concerning the business affairs of ERA and its directors, officers, employees and applicants is to be kept private, secure and confidential. Confidential information that is collected, used or disclosed by ERA will be handled in a manner that recognizes both the right of the individual to have his or her confidential information protected and the need of ERA to collect, use and disclose such information for purposes that are reasonable.

To read the entire Policy, visit <http://eralberta.ca/privacy>.