

## Need to Know: Innovation Supercluster Funding

### Introduction

The Federal Government recently released details on the Innovation Superclusters Initiative included in the 2017 budget, which will allocate a number of high-value, non-repayable investments to industry-led consortiums on a competitive basis. The funding disbursements will take place over the next 5 years, and represent a \$950M federal outlay in economic acceleration.

### Next Steps

Beginning this year, the Federal Government will contribute to establishing superclusters by providing up to \$250 million in funding to individual supercluster applications with the greatest potential to accelerate Canada's economic growth. The funding program is focused on innovative industries, including agri-food, advanced manufacturing, clean technology, digital technology, health and bio-sciences, clean resources, infrastructure, and transportation.

### The Details

- Initial applications are due by July 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, with shortlisted applicants required to submit detailed proposals by October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017. Winners are scheduled to be announced by the end of the year.
- Participants must create a not-for-profit organization to receive and disburse the money to the supercluster members. Every dollar of federal funding requested must be matched with private contributions in cash or kind.
- Participants consist of industry-led consortiums, which, for the initial application phase, must include two large firms, one medium enterprise, one small enterprise, and one post-secondary institution.
- The specific amounts and number of contributions will be based on the nature of applications received and type of support required.
- Applications must include an intellectual property plan to preserve innovative technologies for Canada's benefit.
- The Minister of Innovation has stated that successful applications will be bold and ambitious proposals that can create large-scale transformative results and position Canada for global leadership.
- The applications must contain a supercluster approach centered on technology leadership, partnership for scale, diverse and skilled talent pools, access to innovation, and global advantage.

### The Impact

Saskatoon's regional innovation ecosystem would be vitalized by the situation of a supercluster within Saskatchewan. Job growth and commercial success would be boosted, as other firms and entrepreneurs would migrate to the region to take advantage of the prosperous environment. The positive effects of supercluster funding would extend beyond the consortium applicant itself, as indirect and induced economic effects would manifest in a variety of other industries. For example, if \$200M of additional output was generated in Saskatchewan due to a supercluster grant, it can be estimated that an additional 2,184 jobs would be created across the province.<sup>1</sup>

Between Ag-West Bio, Canadian Light Source, National Research Council, Saskatchewan Research Council, and numerous others, the Saskatoon Region operates as a hub for innovation and research within Western Canada. With infrastructure in place and a variety of highly innovative organizations already established, a supercluster funding grant would help to continue strengthening our existing world-class cluster.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada: Provincial Input-Output Multipliers