

# Global Business Innovation Programme

## Critical Minerals

### Canada

Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme helps businesses explore collaborative innovation and growth opportunities that exist in overseas markets.

We are currently accepting applications to select up to 15 businesses in the Critical Minerals sector to join our programme supported by the High Commission of Canada.

The aim is to foster and support collaborative research and development through Canadian and UK partnerships.

We welcome applications from businesses developing innovative technologies that enable the commercialisation of circular solutions for critical minerals and their supply chains. Areas of focus include:

- **Enhanced Circularity in Critical Minerals.**
  - Battery systems.
  - High Performance Permanent Magnet systems.
- **More Sustainable Use of Critical Minerals.**
  - Processing and Manufacturing.
  - Reduction in Use.
- **Innovations in Environmental, Societal, Governance (ESG) for Critical Minerals.**
  - LCA and sustainability models for life cycle analysis of critical minerals and systems.
  - Measurement and accounting for embedded carbon, radioactivity, and other environmental and societal impacts of REE.
  - Provenance (e.g., material passports, digitization, traceability, etc.) of critical minerals and systems.

#### WHY THE CANADIAN MARKET?

Canada is renowned for its commitment to critical materials circularity and is a prime market for businesses developing innovative solutions in this area. The nation's approach to environmental, societal, and governance considerations positions it as a global leader in sustainable and critical material practices.

#### COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING:

Coinciding with this GBIP, Innovate UK and the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) will be launching a collaborative research and development (CR&D) competition to foster UK and Canadian collaboration in critical minerals circularity. This is an opportunity to meet potential Canadian partners and start scoping projects.

#### Key programme dates

Applicant Briefing:  
[VIEW BRIEFING FILES]

Applications Close:  
8th October 2023

Pre Visit Briefings:  
1st - 2nd  
November 2023

Innovation Visit:  
27th November 2023  
to  
1st December 2023

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Global Business Innovation Programme is structured around three main phases and each business will have a designated Innovate UK EDGE Innovation and Growth Specialist to support them for the duration of the offering, including developing an action plan to capitalise on the opportunities identified. The three main phases of the Global Business Innovation Programme are:-

- **Getting ready for the market:** Preparation workshops to build knowledge and understanding of the market opportunities, including how to do business, cultural aspects, protecting Intellectual Property and training on articulating your value proposition. (1 day workshop)
- **Visiting the market:** Explore the innovation opportunities first-hand through meeting with key companies, research organisations, potential collaborators and partners through pre-arranged meetings and organised matchmaking. (5 days of market related activity)
- **Exploiting the opportunity:** An exploitation workshop and one-to-one support from an Innovate UK EDGE Innovation and Growth Specialist to follow up and take advantage of the opportunities identified. (1 day workshop and working with an Innovate UK EDGE Innovation and Growth Specialist).

## Innovation visit - Itinerary:

Date	Activity
1st - 2nd November 2023	Pre Visit Briefings.
27th November – 1st December 2023	Innovation visit (locations to be confirmed).
2nd December 2023	Arrive back in the UK.

*Travel will be subject to the entry and exit rules of Canada and the UK. Should travel not be permitted the programme will be delivered virtually or cancelled.*

To apply for this initiative, you must:

Be a UK based company

Be a business with fewer than 500 employees

Have a focus on Critical Minerals

## What is the cost?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, and conference fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative.

One representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the Programme a commitment fee of £500 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed action plan.

Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fee.

## How to apply?

The application form can be found [\[HERE\]](#). To support potential applicants, a briefing took place on the 20th September 2023. [\[VIEW BRIEFING FILES\]](#).

The Global Business Innovation Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process.

All applications must be made online and received no later than **Midnight on Sunday 8th October 2023**. All applicants will be notified by the 16th October 2023.

Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such, we welcome applications from under-represented groups.

## Additional information & assistance:

Please note: Successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Canada, as well as any local regulations. The safety of our delegation is our top priority.

For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact: Andrew Kent at [andrew.kent@innovateukedge.ukri.org](mailto:andrew.kent@innovateukedge.ukri.org) or call +44 (0)7399 482650