



Made-in- Saskatchewan Technology (MIST)

Program Guide

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Program Overview

The Made-in-Saskatchewan Technology (MIST) program supports technology pilot projects between the Government of Saskatchewan and local technology startups, fostering the development of innovative solutions to public sector challenges and growth of the technology sector.

Through the MIST program, Innovation Saskatchewan (IS) provides non-repayable grants to technology startups whose innovations may improve citizen service delivery by provincial Ministries, Agencies, and/or Crown corporations. Applications are accepted year-round.

Program Objectives

1. Support the Government of Saskatchewan in practicing excellence and innovation by piloting innovative technologies that could improve public sector services.
2. Solve public sector challenges through the development and deployment of innovative solutions.
3. Foster the growth of Saskatchewan's technology sector by partnering with local technology startups.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for participation in the program:

1. Be based in Saskatchewan, as defined by meeting the following criteria:
 - Has a Saskatchewan head office address;
 - Registered to carry business in the province; and,
 - At least 50% of its employees reside in the province.
2. Has fewer than 50 employees, including full-time, part-time, and contract workers.
3. Reported annual revenue of under \$500,000 in the latest year-end financial statements.
4. Has a novel technology that is ready to be implemented or is reasonably close to commercialization — at least Technology Readiness Level 6.
5. Has reasonable capacity to work with an enterprise-level customer (i.e., government).

Funding Structure

Companies approved for the MIST program can receive a lifetime maximum of \$30,000 to support pilot projects with the Government of Saskatchewan. The MIST grant must be matched 1:1 by a provincial government entity that the applicant is partnering with.

For example:

Scenario	Pilot partner provides	MIST matches
Applicant pilots its technology with one provincial ministry.	\$30,000	\$30,000
Applicant pilots its technology with two provincial ministries	Ministry A: \$15,000 Ministry B: \$15,000	\$30,000
Applicant pilots its technology with one provincial agency for less than \$30,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

The applicant must have an executed contract or statement of work with the identified provincial government partner before a MIST grant can be issued. Prospective applicants who have not already been engaging with potential Government of Saskatchewan partners are advised to contact the MIST program manager for pathfinding support.

There is no limit on how many grants a company can receive from the program to support pilot projects with the provincial government, provided that the lifetime amount does not exceed \$30,000.

Stacking Policy

Companies are not allowed to use MIST grants to supplement project funding from other IS grant programs, such as the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund (SAIF). MIST alumni companies who have exhausted its \$30,000 lifetime cap are free to apply for other IS grant programs. Conversely, companies who have benefited from other IS grant and incentive programs in the past are eligible for MIST grants, provided they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Eligible Costs

Funding from MIST can only be used towards work items identified in the contract or statement of work between the company and the provincial government partner. These items may include:

- Consumables
- Salaries for R&D and technical personnel
- Contracted professional technical services or expertise (i.e., 3rd party software developer)
- Costs related to intellectual property (IP) protection, technology transfer, and commercialization
- Travel and accommodation for project purposes

Companies are responsible for tracking and accounting expenditures related to the project in the event IS conducts an audit on the approved MIST grant.

Ineligible Costs

IS reserves full discretion to declare expenditures ineligible. Ineligible costs include but are not limited to:

- Capital expenditures (i.e., equipment)
- Land/building purchases
- Non-R&D/technical personnel salaries
- Professional/association membership fees and dues
- Marketing and business development
- Hospitality and entertainment

Application Process

Companies that meet the program's *Eligibility Criteria* are welcome to apply at any time by filling out the [application form](#) on the IS website.

Once IS receives an application, an internal assessment is conducted to ensure that the company meets the program's *Eligibility Criteria*. During this process, the program manager may reach out to the company to request additional information if necessary.

If the company passes the internal assessment, the application will be forwarded to an independent advisory committee to assess the following:

1. **Innovation:** Demonstrate how the technology being developed is novel and innovative. Differentiate the technology from existing solutions available in the market to the public sector.
2. **Value Proposition/Relevance to the Government of Saskatchewan:** Demonstrate how the technology being developed is relevant to the Government of Saskatchewan. Highlight which provincial Ministries, Agencies, and/or Crowns that the technology could be valuable for. Explain how the technology can be implemented to address public sector challenges faced by the provincial government.
3. **Technology Readiness:** Describe the technology's readiness level. MIST requires the technology to be at least TRL 6. Applicants are encouraged to refer to [Technology Readiness Levels](#) as defined by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. Discuss any testing and validation that has been conducted on the technology to date.
4. **Team Capacity and Enterprise Readiness:** Describe your capacity to execute on the proposed pilot project with government. Provide a list of personnel that will be involved in the project along with brief biographies. Describe the company and technology's readiness to work with an enterprise-level client.
5. **Current Level of Engagement with the Government of Saskatchewan:** Describe your current level of engagement with any Government of Saskatchewan Ministries, Agencies, and/or Crowns regarding the concerning technology.

IS makes the final determination on applications based on the results of the advisory committee reviews and their recommendations.

Pilot Project Contracting Process

Once the applicant has received approval to participate in the MIST program, it is eligible to receive MIST grants to support pilot project partnerships with provincial government entities. If the applicant has already identified a pilot project with a provincial government partner, it can submit the contract or statement of work to IS for matching funds from the program.

If the applicant has yet to identify a pilot project and/or potential provincial government partner, IS can provide support with pathfinding, project readiness, connections, etc. Once introductions have been made to potential government partners, the applicant is solely responsible for working with partners in setting up meetings, follow-ups, contract/statement of work, etc.

Once IS receives proof that a pilot project has been agreed upon between the company and provincial government partner(s) via a signed contract or statement of work, it will issue a separate funding agreement between the company and IS. MIST grant funding will be disbursed after the IS funding agreement has been signed and an invoice has been issued.

Important Information

Intellectual Property

IS will not assume ownership of any IP that results from funded pilot projects. If necessary, the company is responsible for entering into an IP agreement with the provincial government partner.

The company is responsible for ensuring it has the freedom to operate. IS will not assume any costs or damages related to potential IP disputes with a third party. IS retains the right to terminate funding if a project becomes stalled due to IP issues.

Confidentiality

IS will not release personal, technical, and/or financial details of a project to any party without explicit consent from the company. Funding contract details will remain confidential between IS, the company, and provincial government partner(s). Information may be shared between IS and the provincial government partner(s). Consultants contracted by IS to evaluate applications are bound by non-disclosure agreements.

Media Releases

From time to time, IS will make public media releases on funding decisions and projects. The company will be notified and consulted with prior to any releases being made. IS will not disseminate any personal or commercially sensitive information referenced in "Confidentiality" without explicit consent from the company.

Reporting Requirements

The company will be required to submit progress report at the end of the pilot project. A progress report template will be provided to the proponent, which clarifies information expected to be included in the reports.

Proponents are obligated under the funding contract to report on specific metrics for up to one year after the project funding period has expired. The program manager will reach out to the primary proponent for these metrics on an annual basis.

