5G Adoption Program
as part of the ENCQOR project

April 2020

5G
STRONGER NETWORKS, SMARTER COMMUNITIES.

ERICSSON   ciena   THALES   IBM   CGI

Canada   Ontario   Québec

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Adoption program overview

Demonstrate usage in terms of products, processes or services related to ENCQOR's next generation technologies in various sectors.

COMMUNITIES   HEALTH   TRANSPORTATION   OBJECTS   CITIES   MANUFACTURING   ENERGY

Funding program for Quebec companies or organizations	To design, prepare and test use cases of ENCQOR technologies with end users	Follow-up of the assembly of projects by ADRIQ, with continuous feedback
Financial contribution in the form of reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible expenses	Priority projects: those involving multiple partners and SMEs	Evaluation of projects by independent evaluators

ADRIQ RCTi
DE L'IDÉE AU MARCHÉ

ENCQOR is a transformational Canada-Quebec-Ontario partnership focused on research and innovation in the field of 5G disruptive technologies, on adoption initiatives and system uses.

ENCQOR establishes the first Canadian pre-commercial corridor of 5G digital infrastructure — the key to making the digital economy a reality. ENCQOR's five-year strategy and unique focus on providing access to 5G networks to SMEs, researchers and academia means it is purpose-built not just for unlocking the technological promise of 5G in the near term, but for driving long-term economic growth in Quebec and Ontario and in the broader Canadian innovation ecosystem.

The ENCQOR project is spearheaded by five world-class digital technology companies — Ericsson, Ciena, Thales, IBM Canada and CGI — and brings together industry players, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the public sector, centres for innovation, and universities.

ENCQOR is a tool for accelerating the transition to the digital economy and will strengthen the competitiveness of Canada, Quebec and Ontario in the global economy

Plan

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Program overview

The **5G adoption program** supports companies and organizations to design, prepare and test use cases with end users to demonstrate usage in terms of products, processes or services related to next-generation ENCQOR technologies in various sectors. The program is particularly characterized by a desire to support experiments with a potential for long-term adoption and favors support for large-scale projects including several partners.

The program aims to:
- Support innovation by experimenting products, processes, practices or services related to the use of next-generation technologies in different sectors.
- Stimulate productivity, competitiveness and skills development
- Empower organizations to anticipate change and overcome barriers to the adoption of 5G and next-generation technologies.
- Accelerate the shift in the digital economy and generate socio-economic impacts in Quebec and Canada.

This innovative program offered only in Quebec is complementary to the other programs offered by ENCQOR, including the familiarization with 5G through the activities of innovation sites and the technological development through the IT Project Calls managed by PROMPT.

Designed to stimulate innovation, particularly by leveraging ENCQOR's 5G infrastructure to generate socio-economic benefits and thus create value for Quebec and Canadian organizations and society, this program is also distinguished from other by its user-oriented focus.

How it works

The 5G adoption program is open continuously. Projects are selected following a review by independent evaluators, as applications are submitted, based on annual budget availability. Promoters are invited to contact ADRIQ at the beginning of the preparation of their project, in order to validate the feasibility of the project and thus benefit from support for its development.

Adoption projects have to involve more than one company or organization and leverage the 5G iPaaS Infrastructure offered in ENCQOR. Ultimately, these projects have to test use cases by involving end-users and be in TRL 1-7.

The financed projects may be carried out over a period of several years, but all the projects must be completed no later than March 31, 2022.

The financial contribution is offered in the form of a reimbursement of up to 50% of the eligible expenses incurred by the organization or by the project's partner organizations. Once the project has been approved, reimbursement requests including interim reports will have to be sent twice a year for each year of implementation. No down payment will be granted. The final reimbursement request must include a final report on the project. For more information, see the Funding Mechanism and Project reporting section.

Eligibility

I. Organizations eligible for application

Are eligible for the program:
- For-profit companies engaged in R&D or production activities in Quebec. Projects involving at least one SME (less than 500 employees) are favored.
- Non-profit organizations in Quebec, cooperatives, public and semi-public institutions or organizations in Quebec and Quebec municipalities are also eligible.
- Subject to approval, other organizations

A lead applicant need to be identified. Other organizations will be identified as partners.

II. Eligible expenses

Broadly speaking, the eligible expenses cover the direct costs that are reasonable and necessary for carrying out the project, namely the salaries and social security costs of the employees charged to the project as well as the other costs related to its implementation. Capital costs are not eligible expenses. The details of eligible expenses are available on demand.

Direct project costs:
- Direct costs of material and equipment used to carry out the project.
- The portion of wages directly attributable to the completion of the project.
- Costs related to subcontracting for the realization of the project (sub-contract, consultant, etc.)

Indirect project costs:
- Indirect costs are calculated at a fixed rate of 55% of the direct cost of salaries. In total, these indirect costs can not exceed 15% of eligible expenses.

III. Eligible projects

To be eligible, a project must respect the following:
- Design and / or prepare and / or experiment with use cases involving end users.
- Leverage the 5G iPaaS infrastructure offered by ENCQOR.
- Be in TRL 1 to 7.
- Be able to demonstrate the potential for large scale adoption.
- Involve more than more than one company or organization. Projects involving several SMEs will be promoted.
- Involve end users or organizations / groups representing them.

Without limitation, the program will support projects in the following areas:
- Smart cities (public safety, mobility and transportation, ...)
- E-energy and environment
- E-Health, Assisted Living and Community
- Industry and Work practices of the future

Here are some examples of eligible projects:
- Define and test new products, processes, practices or services.
- Define and demonstrate new use cases.
- Prepare organizations for next-generation technologies, including the transformation of enterprise architecture to 5G, the definition and implementation of new business models and processes.

Process

Highly aware of the efforts required to set up such a project, the process put in place is designed to continuously provide feedback and support to organizations interested in submitting a project.

STEP 1 - NOTICE OF INTEREST AND PREQUALIFICATION

Submission of a notice of interest by the teams → Project's prequalification by ADRIQ → Work meeting with ADRIQ → Deposit of an enhanced notice of interest (if applicable) by the team

STEP 2 - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION BY INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS

Evaluation of the Notice of Interest by Independent Evaluators.

Successful projects are invited to submit a complete application and will receive the support of ADRIQ for its preparation

STEP 3 - COMPLETE PREPARATION OF THE APPLICATION

Development of the complete application with the help of ADRIQ → Complete application filing

STEP 4 - FINAL DECISION

Review of expenditures eligibility and technical feasibility → Final review and decision by independent evaluators

STEP 5 - AGREEEMENT SIGNATURE

Evaluation

The 5G adoption program is a program with limited funding. Not all eligible projects will be funded. The funded projects will be those that best meet the objectives of the program and have the greatest socio-economic potential for Québec and Canada.

Prior to evaluation by independent evaluators, ADRIQ will review the submitted projects to confirm eligibility of the expenses and a technical committee will ensure the technical feasibility. All reviewers are bound by Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs).

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on assessment criteria which include but are not limited to:

- Clarity of purpose, opportunities and socio-economic potential of the project
- The innovative nature of the project, in terms of products, practices, processes or services
- Respect of the parameters of the program and the number of partners and SMEs involved in the project
- The expertise and experience of the team, the financial and organizational strength of the partners. The ability of the team to complete the project.
- Clearness, feasibility and realism of the project plan as well as the budget.
- The overall quality of the project

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Funding mechanism

- The ENCQOR adoption program's contribution is evaluated at a value of $ 250,000 to $ 500,000 for a project involving approximately 5 to 10 companies or organizations.
- In total, approximately fifteen adoption projects of different sizes and values will be funded in the program.
- The financial assistance rate can not exceed 50% of eligible expenses.
- Funding is based on a reimbursement model of eligible expenses.
- Projects may span more than one year, but all funded projects must be completed by March 31, 2022.
- ENCQOR's financial partners (ERICSSON, CIENA, CGI, IBM and THALES) are not eligible for the Adoption Program

The total budget for this project call is $ 10 million, representing a government contribution of $ 5 million.

Project reporting

- No advance payment is planned in the projects
- The financial assistance is channeled to the businesses and organizations funded following the approval of the project according to the frequency heard, and this, for each year of completion of the project.
- A project progress report is required for each payment request based on the reimbursement model. This report must include the progress of the project, the changes made to the project and the proof of expenditure. Claim forms and templates are provided to funded organizations and must be used.
- The funded organizations have to keep all the supporting documents, receipts and any other relevant documentation related to the eligible expenses. They have to be inserted in the reports.
- When the project is completed, a final report is required, along with a final claim for reimbursement of expenses.
- Funded organizations must agree to collaborate on an economic impact study.
- At the end of each fiscal year, funded organizations must complete an annual survey. This survey is necessary to enable ADRIQ to meet its obligations towards ENCQOR's sponsors.
- Organizations that have implemented an adoption project in ENCQOR have to agree to collaborate with ADRIQ to enable it to communicate and / or showcase and / or carry out a case study about their project.

Link with other ENCQOR programs

The different ENCQOR programs can be leveraged to optimize the effects for companies and organizations. Thus, the same organization can participate in different ENCQOR programs for different projects or different phases of the same project. In no case may the same expenses be eligible for funding in more than one program.

For example, a technology development project funded under the IT Project Calls managed by PROMPT could continue to a demonstration with end users in the 5G Adoption Program.

For more information on ENCQOR programs for companies, visit:
quebec.encqor.ca

Innovation Platforms	Financing IT Projects	Adoption Projects	Collaborative R&D Projects	Talent Development
Learn more	Learn more	Learn more	Learn more	Learn more

How to submit a project ?

1	Exploratory meeting	First discussions between promotors and ADRIQ.

2	Prepare a notice of interest	A 2-3 page document including: • Targeted challenge or opportunity • Type of experimentation • Partnerships • Expected results and • Financial scope

3	Submit a notice of interest to the ADRIQ	Notice of interest will be processed by ADRIQ for pre-qualification.

Contact

For any information request or to submit your opinion of interest:

Michèle Sawchuck
Content director, ADRIQ
Responsible for the ENCQOR 5G Adoption program
Michele.sawchuck@adriq.com
514 337-3001, ext.: 109

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