

Innovation Pilot Program

TiE Ottawa is pleased to partner with the City of Ottawa to promote Innovation Pilot Program to its membership and to TiECon participants. Contact TiE Ottawa if you would like to take advantage of this unique offer by the City.

Description of the Program and Goals

The City of Ottawa's Economic Development & Innovation Department (EDI) manages the Innovation Pilot Program. This new program is designed for local, national and international start-ups to pilot new technologies, products or services with the City of Ottawa. The program focuses on technologies, products, and/or services that will provide a benefit to programs and services offered by the City to residents. These new projects are to be unique and innovative, and have yet to be widely commercialized. The selected pilot projects would be matched with the appropriate City of Ottawa department, and use the City's infrastructure to pilot their project.

Areas of Priority

The six areas of priority that have been identified are as follows, however, all applications will be considered:

1. CleanTech
2. Information and Communication Technologies
3. Public Health
4. Public Works
5. Safety and Security
6. Parks and Recreation

Criteria for eligibility:

- The technology, product, and/or service must be unique and innovative
- The technology, product, and/or service must be ready for use
- The technology, product, and/or service must not have yet been widely commercially used/sold

The application will be assessed on the project's ability to meet the following criteria:

- Alignment with the City of Ottawa's updated economic development strategy, in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and small business development
- The ability of the project to match with and benefit (i.e. allow cost savings, improvements and/or improve efficiencies) a City of Ottawa department
- The project's viability and the applicant's ability to implement the program successfully
- The quality of the project plan, supporting documentation and the attention paid to addressing and mitigating risks

Funding

It is anticipated that 3 to 5 larger scale projects would be approved each year, along with multiple smaller projects, to a maximum of 12 projects in the initial year of the program. The funding associated with each pilot project will be contingent on its size and scope. However, the request to each host department within the City will be to implement the project within their resources, and at no cost to the City. If this is not possible, the funds awarded would go towards costs supporting the project's implementation (e.g., staff training, fit-up and/or customization). No funds would go directly to the entrepreneur. City staff would provide feedback to the entrepreneur during and once the project is complete. There should be no expectation from the involved parties that the City would purchase the piloted project at the end of the pilot term. Funding is anticipated to be released at the end of July 2015, with the first approved projects to begin in September 2015.