

## **Clean Resource Innovation Network (CRIN) Low Emission Fuels and Products Competition**

### **Technical Reviewer – Role Description**

#### **Competition Background:**

The Clean Resource Innovation Network (CRIN) is a pan-Canadian network focused on ensuring Canada's energy resources can be sustainably developed and integrated into the global energy supply. In 2020, CRIN was awarded \$100M from Canada's Strategic Innovation fund, part of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). The agreement identifies \$80M for technology enablement which will be distributed through three technology competitions (Digital Innovation, Environmental Footprint Reduction and Low Emission Fuels and Products) for TRL 6-9 beginning in 2021.

The Low Emission Fuels and Products competition will distribute \$25M, to technology projects that can deliver significant carbon reductions, in allotments ranging up to \$10M. The total number of projects that receive funding will be determined based on project financing recommendations made by the competition's technical reviewers.

The competition will run a 2-phase application process: 1) Expression of Interest (EOI) – open to all eligible applicants and 2) Full Project Proposal (FPP) – the shortlisted projects in the EOI stage will be invited to submit an FPP application.

#### **Technical Reviewer Role:**

Technical reviewers are responsible for assessing pre-assigned applications against established evaluation criteria using a scoring rubric. Reviewers will be asked to score projects on set criteria, which will cover areas such as the innovation of the proposed project, the impact of the technology (environmental, economic and social), as well as the commercialization and implementation potential of the project. Reviewers will be paid for their services.

The competition is currently recruiting reviewers to fill 3 types of roles: EOI Application Reviewer, FPP mentor/coach and FPP Application Reviewer. The number of EOI reviewers required will be determined by the number of applications the program receives, as well as the focus area of the projects. Likewise, the number of FPP reviewers required will depend on the number of EOI applications shortlisted for the second phase.

EOI applications will require 1 hour to review, while FPP applications will require 6 hours to review as a result of their detailed questionnaire and supporting documentation. Reviewers will be assigned a maximum of 15 EOIs to review and a maximum of 3 FPPs to review. EOI and FPP applications will be assigned to reviewers based on expertise areas, as well as overall need for the competition. During the FPP application process, applicants will also be assigned mentors or coaches, who will be responsible for guiding their application process and giving advice. During the FPP stage, some reviewers will be assigned to coach/mentor proponents, while others will review the final applications once they are submitted. An individual cannot be both a coach and a reviewer during the FPP phase and assignments will reflect this.

Reviewers will be asked to review all applications in a fair and transparent manner, disclosing any potential conflict of interest prior to accepting any review assignment. Reviewers will also be required to sign a standard non-disclosure agreement in order to protect the confidentiality of potential applicants.

Following their application assignments and after conducting a review of each assigned application, all reviewers will be required to participate in a Merit Review Session (MRS) of a half to full day in length. There will be 2 Merit Review Sessions – one for the EOI Phase and another for the FPP Phase. The Merit Review Sessions will be scheduled well in advance to give reviewers enough time to assess availability and plan for their participation. During the Merit Review Sessions, the top applications will be discussed and a decision for the recommendation of projects to advance to the FPP Phase (i.e., EOI Merit Review Session) and projects to recommend for financing (i.e., FPP Merit Review Session) will occur. Open, transparent discussions about each project will occur during MRSs, including any reservations a reviewer would like to bring forward regarding a particular project. Both Merit Review Sessions will be observed by an independent Fairness Evaluator.

### **Reviewer Skill-set and Requirements:**

#### **Skillset:**

- Have previous experience reviewing technologies for challenge competitions or funding programs, particularly for oil and gas applications
- Expertise in one or more of the following areas:
  - Innovative products from hydrocarbons and minerals
  - Carbon capture and utilization
  - Hydrogen production from hydrocarbons
  - Geothermal energy
  - Low-carbon intensity alternatives and new fuels
  - Low-carbon technology commercialization within the oil and gas sector
- Capable of assessing a project for its fit with the lower emission fuels and products competition area, including assessing the potential impact and commercial potential of the technology/project
- **Fluency in French** is not a requirement, but a strong asset at this time

#### **Requirements:**

- Be willing to sign a Conflict-of-Interest policy, as well as disclose and recuse yourself from any assigned applications for which you have an identified conflict of interest
- Be willing to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Be willing to attend a 1-2-hour orientation session for each phase (EOI and FPP) in order to understand the scoring rubric, overall process, and how to use our chosen submission software for the Low Emission Fuels and Products competition: Selecteev
- Be willing to communicate with Delphi and Foresight staff over the duration of the competition, share your contact information (i.e. email and phone number) with other technical reviewers and complete a short skills matrix, which will be used during the EOI and FPP application assignment process
- Available to review EOI applications (i.e. up to 15 hours) between June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021
- Available to conduct third or “tie-breaker” reviews from July 6<sup>th</sup>-July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Participate in the EOI Merit Review Session; to take place between July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Available to mentor FPP proponents during their application development process (August 5<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021) or available to review FPP applications and participate in the FPP Merit Review Session (October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021).