



2011-2012 RESEARCH PROGRAM

Fifth Call for Proposals

Submission and information guide

June 2011

PREFACE

This document outlines the conditions under which research projects submitted to the CRIBIQ may receive financial support through the funding program set up for 2011-2012 Research Program fifth call for projects. This funding has been made possible thanks to contributions from the Quebec ministry of economic development, innovation and exportation (MDEIE) as part of its program of support for technology utilization and transfer, Section 4: *Support for industrial research groupings by sector*. The aim of the MDEIE program is to encourage businesses to group together to undertake collaborative research projects in order to share the costs and risks associated with research and development, bring industrial research closer to universities, collegial centres for technology transfer and public research laboratories or centres and to improve the cost-efficiency of research facility use and the hiring of qualified human resources.

I. DESCRIPTION AND AIMS OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

I.1 Description of the CRIBIQ research program

Manufacturing processes using biotechnologies, processes for converting biomass to saleable products and the upgrading or treatment of residues are all suitable research goals for funding by the CRIBIQ program.

The lines of research thus favoured are as follows:

- Fermentation, process or bioreactor engineering
- Bio-catalysis and bioconversions
- Genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics
- Metabolic engineering
- Extraction and purification of bio-ingredients
- Bio-filtration
- Biomass processing

The targeted sectors are primarily:

- Industrial bio-products
- Environment
- Agriculture and forestry
- Human health and nutrition
- Animal health and nutrition

I.2 Aims

The aims of the CRIBIQ research program are as follows:

- To generate new knowledge and technologies for the benefit of CRIBIQ members;
- Transfer of technology, knowledge and know-how to industry;
- To develop industrial bioprocesses with applications in multiple sectors;
- To create new niches of development for conventional industries in Quebec;
- To improve the competitive positioning of member businesses;
- To create partnerships among member businesses and with the research community;
- To train graduate students in lines of research of interest to the consortium;
- To facilitate recruitment of skilled workers by member businesses;
- To disseminate knowledge and technologies generated by the consortium;
- To incite businesses abroad to participate in the consortium research program.

II. MODE OF FUNDING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

II.1 Admissible projects

A project admissible for CRIBIQ funding is any project that is submitted by CRIBIQ members and relevant to the lines of research and industrial sectors outlined in section I.1 above, and which meets the evaluation criteria outlined in section II.5. The CRIBIQ **will only accept research projects involving at least two industrial partners** willing to contribute financial resources as well as internal resources and to call upon the skills of a research institution at a university, CCTT or governmental research centre.

II.2 Specific measures to the 5th call for projects (IMPORTANT)

Following the 4th call for projects, the cumulative amount available for the current call for projects from CRIBIQ is 410 000\$. Because of the limited availability of funds, the **maximal amount that can be requested from CRIBIQ is set to 150 000\$**. Also, authorisation from the board of directors will be made **based on a specific order established by the technico-economic advisory committee (TEAC) until complete exhaustion of remaining funds (410 000\$)**. Remaining projects recommended by the TEAC but unable to receive funding from the 5th call for projects will be **instantaneously funded following an eventual renewal from MDEIE of CRIBIQ financing agreement for the 2012-2015 period**, and this, without any need to apply to another call for projects. Also, industrial funds made in projects accepted for funding in the 5th call for projects and already started will be considered by CRIBIQ starting April 1, 2011.

II.3 Project length

The maximal duration anticipated for the financial participation of the CRIBIQ in a research project is **36 months**. Respect of the financial commitment is subject to assurances of financing by the partners and satisfactory progress as defined in the contract and the annual budget set for the project.

II.4 Processing of applications for funding

For the 2011-2012 fiscal exercise, the CRIBIQ intends to organize a **grant competition**. The major dates to bear in mind are listed in the following table:

Submission of letters of intent	June 21, 2011
Reply to letters of intent	July 4, 2011
Submission of detailed applications	August 18, 2011
Decision of the techno-economic advisory committee (TEAC)	September 21, 2011
Final decision of the board of directors	September 27, 2011

In the interests of transparency, the board of directors will set up a techno-economic advisory committee (TEAC) composed of five independent permanent members. The role of the TEAC will be to evaluate the projects submitted and to recommend either acceptance in a specific priority order to the CRIBIQ board of directors or rejection.

II.5 Project selection criteria

The TEAC shall evaluate applications as a function of the selection and evaluation criteria listed below:

- How well the project goals fit with the aims of the CRIBIQ research program;
- The financial involvement (in cash) of the industrial partners;

- How realistic the project execution timetable and budget appear to be;
- Industrial-scale pre-feasibility of the bioprocess;
- Economic, technological and environmental impact of the project's goals;
- Quality of the R&D plan;
- The skills of the research team in the scientific disciplines involved in the project;
- The mode of intellectual property utilization among the partners: an agreement governing the conditions of IP management between all partners (businesses, universities, research centres) to be provided with an application that will be required before submitting the detailed agreement to the CRIBIQ. Prior to this, the letter of intent submitted to the CRIBIQ must indicate the mechanisms by which such an agreement will be reached;
- The admissibility (compatibility) of project funding obtained from other programs.

II.6 Awarding of the grant

Funds granted by the CRIBIQ must be used to achieve the objectives presented in the submitted application. For any project accepted for funding, the CRIBIQ will provide grant money to partners belonging to the following member categories:

- University or research centre;
- University of Québec or regional research centre;
- Technology transfer centre.

Note that for each research project funded, **a file management fee of 8.5% of the total amount granted by the CRIBIQ will be deducted.**

III. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMPLEMENTARY GRANT OR FUNDING PROGRAMS

In this fifth call for projects, funding from the CRIBIQ will be received in the form of a grant that may cover up to 40% (in cash) of the total cost of the research project, **up to a maximum of 150 000\$**. Furthermore, CRIBIQ will match industrial funds to a ratio of 1:1. Projects having a **CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDUSTRIALS : CRIBIQ FUNDING** ratio of 60:40 are also accepted.

The CRIBIQ will also support industrial and research partners in their application for funds matching their industrial research contributions in cash and in kind, such as may be obtained from other granting organizations. Success in obtaining such matching funds for members through these programs provides a financial lever, which amounts to a deliverable to the MDEIE with respect to its financial support of the CRIBIQ. However, combined government assistance (federal, provincial and municipal) cannot exceed 70% of admissible expenses.

The most accessible complementary program with respect to collaborative research funded by the CRIBIQ is the NSERC collaborative research and development grant program (CRD). Other granting programs may also be solicited, such as the MDEIE technological intensification program, the Growing Canadian agri-innovations program of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Genome Canada (Genome Quebec), the Industrial Research Assistance Program of the National Research Council (NRCC-IRAP), NSERC-CCI, NSERC-ARD, FQRNT, MITACS, NSERC-Innov, SDTC, private foundations or any other public, private, federal, provincial or international program.

The CRIBIQ encourages industry people or researchers who wish to benefit from these grant programs **to submit their applications to these organizations at the same time as they apply to the CRIBIQ for funding**. Applications submitted to the CRIBIQ will be evaluated independently of those submitted to other organizations for the same project and the evaluation criteria may of



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course differ from one organization to the next. A successful application to other organizations does not guarantee success at the CRIBIQ and vice versa. However, applicants must indicate in their letter of intent submitted to the CRIBIQ how they intend to obtain the rest of the funding they may require from other organizations.