



Format

Presentation

Questions: use the Q&A function of Zoom

RNS Mandate

The Minister of Advanced Education has the discretion to determine RNS research priorities. These were provided on 1 May 2025:

“Provincially funded research should demonstrate advancements across seven key outcomes:

Provincial productivity

- Increase technology development, uptake and use
- Increase knowledge and innovation diffusion into industry
- Increased investment in [tradable sectors](#) and expansion of exports

Provincial economic growth

- Enhance commercialization of research, including retention and deployment of Nova Scotia intellectual property (IP) in the province.
- Increase the number of highly qualified personnel (HQP) employed in NS
- Increase investment in research and development in key sectors
- Increase to provincial GDP”

“All activities and funding provided by the Corporation must align to the research priorities, as provided by the Minister.”

“Researchers and Research NS will need to show how the research they are conducting and funding is contributing to measurable changes in these outcomes”

“Priority sectors:

- Natural resources, climate change and clean energy
- Life sciences and health sciences
- Construction and transportation”

Strategy Summary

Bimodal investment strategy

- *Convened*: RNS engages partners, end-users and researchers to define outcomes and design a research agenda.
- *Responsive*: RNS selects investment options from proposals received within defined funding rounds.



End user-informed outcomes in priority sectors are identified and research projects pitched by applicants

Early to advanced R&D

Undertaken by an existing research provider

RNS may be sole or partial funder

- 10 to 20 E2G per year
- each up to \$500k over 1 to 3 years
- two funding rounds/year

FOCUSED



RNS will participate as a member of a funding consortium to support a portfolio-sized unit of ambition in an *opportunity space*.

Several projects actively organized and coordinated to achieve the desired outcome(s).

- 2 to 4 FRI per year
- each \$1 to 5 million over 2 to 5 years

FRI is Open

Key Dates



June 10, 2026	Call for Opportunity Space Proposals launched
June 25, 2026, 1:00 PM (ADT)	FRI Opportunity Spaces Information Session (Zoom)
August 19, 2026, 1:00 PM (ADT)	Opportunity Space Proposals deadline
September 15, 2026	Successful teams invited to submit FRI Proposals
November 10, 2026, 1:00 PM (AST)	FRI Proposal deadline
January 2027	Successful applicants notified
January/February 2027	Public announcement of funding recipients
March 2027	Deadline for signed agreements

Key Resources

- 
- [Strategic Plan](#)
 - [Statement of Purpose](#)
 - [Opportunity Space Proposal Handbook](#)

FRI is Open



Statement of Purpose

Context

This Statement of Purpose (SoP) defines the intent of Research Nova Scotia (RNS) funding programs. It explains *why* funding is provided and what all funded research is expected to achieve.

The audience for this SoP is potential funding applicants, to enable them to:

- assess the suitability of their ideas before developing a proposal
- improve the quality and relevance of proposals

FRI is Open



FOCUSED RESEARCH INVESTMENTS

Opportunity Space Proposal Handbook

Spring 2026

SUMMARY	
Call for Opportunity Space proposals opens	June 10, 2026
Webinar: Opportunity Spaces (Zoom)	June 25, 2026, 1:00 pm (ADT)
How to apply	Application Form
Call for Opportunity Space proposals closes	August 19, 2026, 1:00 pm (ADT)
Up to 6 successful applicants invited to submit full FRI proposals	September 15, 2026
Full FRI proposals due	November 10, 2026, 1:00 pm (AST)
FRI Pitches	November 2026
Successful FRI recipient teams notified	Early 2027
FRI funding start	Spring 2027
Funding available	Per project: \$1M to \$5M; Total for round: \$6 M
Investment period	2 to 5 years

Opportunity Space

Two phase process:

1. Opportunity space proposal
2. If selected, FRI proposal

Opportunity Spaces:

- sector-level challenges inhibiting economic growth or productivity that can be addressed through research (not a limitation of policy or implementation)
- where there are partners with whom to work, private sector interest, and existing research capacity.

FRI initiatives develop a research project(s) that *respond* to Opportunity Spaces.

Applicants need to make a clear and compelling case for an Opportunity Space's importance and potential to generate economic value for Nova Scotia in one of the three priority sectors.

Opportunity Space

Your application is not a summary of a research proposal.

You are describing an opportunity that an FRI can address.

Selection:

1. **Priority** – urgent, important, salient, and recognizably affecting Nova Scotians – and Nova Scotia can leverage a competitive edge to address it. High potential to realize one of the **three primary outcomes**.
2. **Research** – needed to solve the problem.
3. **Expertise** – NS has the expertise, partners, resources and/or strong case for building that capacity or making that investment.
4. **RNS is the right organization to invest.**
5. **Suitable for an FRI** – coordinated research efforts across groups to advance a series of integrated component research projects.

Primary Outcomes

1. **Market creation or growth:** increased economic value or wealth through new products, services, or value chains, or creation or expansion of markets.
2. **Productivity gains:** improved efficiency, effectiveness, or output of an organization, sector, or system relative to the resources required (labour, capital, energy, materials, or time).
3. **Policy or regulatory improvement:** improved regulation, standards, public guidance, procurement, or policy implementation that lowers uncertainty, reduces compliance cost, improves market functioning, or enables market expansion.

Written Application

FRI: Opportunity Space Proposal 2026

0%

Thank you for your interest in proposing an Opportunity Space for Research Nova Scotia's Focused Research Investment program. Please review the program guidance before completing this form and ensure that all required information is provided. Applications must be submitted through this form by **1:00 p.m. Atlantic Time on August 19, 2026.**

- Cover page
 - Opportunity space name
 - Contact Info
 - Anticipated project value
- Proposal
 - 3,000 words
 - Allocate space as you wish
 - Equal weight for the five evaluation areas

Written Application

Sections:

1. **Priority**
2. **Research-based**
3. **Coordination** (why an active coordination model is appropriate and timely)
4. **Expertise & Interest**
5. **FRI** (what FRI would be built if the opportunity space is selected?)

Points of emphasis

- This is not a summary of a research project
- This first phase of selection replaces committee-based development of priority work areas
- Up to six proposed opportunity spaces will be invited to submit an FRI proposal

This table speaks to an FRI's ambition and characteristics, NOT the eligible activities or expenses

	Yes	No
Novel	The work is aimed at new findings, producing new knowledge or insights. It addresses unanswered questions, gaps, or unexplored applications.	Jurisdictional scans, literature reviews, the collation of existing material or evidence, curriculum development, training sessions, communications or outreach activities – unless they are minor components to support the research work.
Creative	The work uses original concepts, innovative methods or new interpretations.	Data collection, monitoring programs, data processing, and quality control without methodology or technique development – unless they are minor components to support the research work.
Uncertain	The results or feasibility cannot be fully known in advance.	Engineering assessments, feasibility studies, diagnostics, inspection, maintenance, compliance testing.
Systematic	The work follows a planned and organized approach, with objectives, methods, procedures, data collection and analysis.	Trial-and-error, learning by doing, adaptive management.
Transferable	The work generates results that can be transferred to other situations or circumstances, to be adapted and built upon, so the work becomes part of broader understanding.	One-time solution-finding tailored to a specific circumstance or context; work without generalizable findings.

Questions?

Apply@ResearchNS.ca