

Early Demonstration Seed Fun Round 1

Name of Reviewer: _____

Date reviewed: _____

Overall score: /100

Comments to applicants: (please provide constructive feedback for applicants)

SCORING MATRIX:

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION	SCORE
Technical Due Diligence	<i>Applicant's proposed innovation rests on pre-established technology mobilization work and understands how it will be improved upon [Q4].</i>	/10
Problem, Solution & End-User Definition	<p><i>Application clearly defines the nature of the problem [Q2], its apparent value (time, money, quality, risk, capacity, stakeholder benefit) [Q11], the proposed technology improvement intervention [Q6], and how this advances the technology in question beyond proof-of-concept technology readiness.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed work should focus on resolving scope or performance deficiencies of an existing proof-of-concept using the same underlying technologies as the proposed demonstration [Q5-6].</i></p> <p><i>The applicant has identified a suitable end-user who can verify that the demonstration has advanced the technology application beyond its proof-of-concept capacity [Q9].</i></p>	/30
Workplan & Success/Failure Criteria	<i>Defines the starting state and the desired end state of the project. Defines the target performance criteria for each deliverable (e.g., deadline, cost, performance target) [Q7].</i>	/20
Management of Project	<i>Lead applicant demonstrates their centrality and control over the project [Q8]. Budget is appropriate and McDonald Institute expenses are eligible [Q10]. The steps to resolve TRL progression are reasonable and well thought out. [Q5-6]</i>	/25
Equity Thinking	<p><i>Employs equity thinking in terms of who is involved with the project [Q12].</i></p> <p><i>Identifies barriers and/or consequences potentially affecting the distribution of benefits from the proposed innovation (cost, time, quality, physical access, social pressure, etc.) [Q13]</i></p> <p><i>Identifies one or more steps for mitigating barriers potentially arising from the proposed innovation [Q13].</i></p>	/15
Alignment with Institute Mission	<i>Applicant's proposal demonstrates potential for frontier research activity in astroparticle physics to drive innovation without unduly disrupting core research progress [Q6, Q8] and has demonstrated their compliance with conflict of interest disclosure requirements [Q14, Part E]</i>	Pass/Fail
Additional Budget Criteria	<i>The budget requested follows eligibility guidelines and aligns with current market values [Q10]</i>	Pass/Fail

Scoring Rubric

Scored-Application Criteria:

0.0 of available score - did not address the criteria.

0.4 of available score - provided adequate information, but the case being made was weak.

0.65 of available score - provided adequate information, and the case being made is adequate.

0.9 of available score - provided adequate information and the case being made is strong.

1.0 - of available score - provided adequate information and the case being made is excellent.

Pass/Fail Application Criteria:

Pass – fundable (if scored criteria meets min. funding benchmark)

Fail – not fundable under any circumstances

Funding Benchmarks and Decision Criteria:

This is an open-solicitation program (it is open to applicants for as long as its current fiscal year budget allocation is not fully committed, and it is closed as soon as those funds have been committed via letter of award). Prospective applicants should consult McDonald Institute Funding Opportunities before beginning the application process <https://mcdonaldinstitute.ca/funding-opportunities/#current>. Applications can only be received when the Early Demonstration Seed Fund is listed on the “Current Opportunities” page.

90/100 score – fundable

75 to 89/100 score – fundable under special circumstances (*see below*)

0 to 75/100 score – not fundable

Applications received with requests inside the available remaining budget allocation and scoring 90/100 or more on the scoring criteria and “Pass” on all Pass/Fail criteria will be recommended for funding award within 10 calendar days of receipt (to a maximum voucher of \$20,000 CDN reimbursement of invoiced expenses).

If two or more applications are received simultaneously (within 10 calendar days of each other) and both score above 90/100 and "Pass" then the highest scoring application shall be offered award first, and any unallocated funds remaining after that offer is accepted/rejected may be offered to the next lower scoring application, etc.

Any application scoring between 75 to 89 out of 100 and "Pass" on all Pass/Fail criteria will be awarded if no higher scoring application has been received within 30 calendar days of receipt of the first application.

No application scoring below 75/100 and "Pass" on all "Pass/Fail criteria will be offered an award. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply in the same fiscal year no earlier than 30 calendar days after the receipt of decision to not fund the prior application.