

Section I

Call for Proposals

The Venture13 Policetech Accelerator (Policetech Accelerator) is seeking proposals for collaborative R&D projects that will review and assess current best practices in the field as well as the development of ethical standards for the use of facial recognition technology by first responders.

About the Accelerator

The Policetech Accelerator was launched in February of 2020 to develop and validate new approaches for twenty-first century policing in a controlled and defined small-town, pilot-scale environment.

Background: The Challenge

Recent public criticism and skepticism of commercial applications of facial recognition technology (from a privacy, legal and social perspective), while legitimate in principal, has also obfuscated the inherent benefits and opportunities for improved community safety through the ethical and responsible use of facial recognition technologies by first responders. The lack of clear standards or guidelines for ethical use cases has only served to delay this technology's adoption. As such, the Policetech Accelerator wishes to work with SMEs and/or Academia to develop a collaborative research and development (R&D) program that includes the development of standards, educational material and a framework for training of personnel. In doing so, the Policetech Accelerator aims to increase the pace of transfer knowledge transfer from experts in the humanities and social sciences to front-line policing, in order to facilitate widespread adoption of ethical facial recognition technologies.

Awards

The Policetech Accelerator anticipates up to 2 awards under this Call for Projects (CFP) competition. The total anticipated amount for the award is up to \$5,000 CAD + additional in-kind contributions per project to support an R&D project that contributes to the review and development of ethical standards and/or development of training and educational materials within a framework that incorporates the latest advancements in social studies and the humanities and public policy.

It is anticipated that applicants look to leverage funding available through matching programs such as [OCE](#), [NRC-IRAP](#), [NSERC-Alliance](#), [NSERC-Engage](#). The total amount of funding

made available to fund a successful proposal may vary depending on the number of candidates selected. Detailed information about funding is available in Section II.

The Policetech Accelerator will evaluate proposals through internal processes including an initial due diligence followed by extensive review through our Innovation Platoon with recommendations to be reviewed by the Chief of the Cobourg Police Service. The Policetech Accelerator reserves the right to select up to two proposals, or none of the proposals.

Section II - Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants under this call for proposals include entrepreneurs and researchers.

Entrepreneurs will normally have:

- A concept for a novel, innovative solution using fact based R&D to overcome the problem in a manner that can be successfully implemented.
- Previous experience in developing industry standards/guidelines/educational materials using evidence based research.
- Investigated and demonstrated eligibility and suitability for third-party programs providing matching funding, for example: [OCE](#), [NRC-IRAP](#), [NSERC-Alliance](#), [NSERC-Engage](#), etc.

Researchers will normally have:

- Formal affiliation with a post-secondary institution (graduate/post-graduate and/or faculty)
- Previous experience in developing industry standards/guidelines/educational materials using evidence based research.
- A research project that is eligible for incremental non-repayable/non-dilutive funding under a relevant government program that can leverage our contribution of \$5,000 (plus additional in-kind contributions) from the V13 Policetech Accelerator.
- Investigated and demonstrated eligibility and suitability for third-party programs providing matching funding, for example: [OCE](#), [NSERC](#), [SSHRC](#), [MITACS](#), etc.

Section III - Dates

Key Dates	
May 8, 2020	Release of the call for Proposals
May 19, 2020	Inquiries and Questions Due
June 12, 2020	Expression of Interest Due
June 26, 2020	Decision on EOIs
July 17, 2020	Expected deadline to apply for gov't grant to leverage funding (if applicable).

Section IV - Proposals

Expression of Interest

An Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted by 5pm on June 5, 2020
The EOI should be submitted via the Policetech Accelerator website:
<https://policetechaccelerator.com/start-up-stream/>

Proposal - Fillable webform

1. Contact information
2. Summary which will be able to be made public (350 word limit)
3. R&D project narrative (to include the proposed approach, tools, etc) (3 page limit, including 1 page budget overview - including potential leveraged funding).
4. Biographical Sketch of PI(s) (attachable CV)
4. Description of in-kind support requested/needed if applicable (500 word limit)
5. Plan for leveraging Policetech funds (if applicable). (150 word limit)