

## **WIN-Brainport Eindhoven Innovation Partnerships Program**

### **Program Description**

The Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology (WIN) – Brainport Eindhoven Innovation Partnerships Program is a competitive grant designed to foster rapid translation of research and the potential creation of spin-off companies in partnership with Brainport Development NV (Brainport), Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

WIN researchers are at the forefront of developing innovative tools, materials and devices, ranging from medical imaging to sensors for various applications, many of which are guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These innovations often have a limited market opportunity in the Canadian context. Therefore, engaging with markets such as the EU at the early stages is critical for realizing their full potential. Partnership with Brainport, one of the Netherlands and Europe's leading innovative top technology regions, would be pivotal to translational research success. Brainport-supported companies were, for decades, at the forefront of advanced electronics, smart and precision manufacturing, design-driven innovations, with a significant focus on societal impact. Most recently Brainport has been observing significant growth in the emerging high-potential integrated photonics industry cluster in and around the Eindhoven Region.

### **Program Details**

#### **Stage I: Travel Grant**

We will select 3-5 projects strongly aligned with the Brainport Eindhoven industrial eco-system. Researchers will be invited to spend four (4) days in Eindhoven. During their stay, they will be introduced to the region's eco-system, take a short course on product development, market research and startup business development, and participate in pre-arranged one-on-one meetings. The total funding envelope for this stage is \$15,000. The award amount will be in the form of reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the selected project PI.

#### **Stage II: Prototype validation**

For this competition, three (3) outstanding proposals will be funded. The maximum cash funding request for each submitted proposal from WIN is \$25,000. The PI must identify cash and/or in-kind contributions from the Brainport partners. The project duration for the requested funding is for one year.

### **Eligibility**

#### **Stage I:**

Projects must focus on new technologies developed within WIN faculty member's laboratories that have a strong likelihood of leading to commercial opportunities and rapid commercialization with a 2-3 year time period after completion of the project. The application must identify a leading WIN faculty member



(PI). The PI may choose to nominate a graduate student or a postdoc who has intimate knowledge of the technology (e.g. a co-inventor) to travel on the group's behalf. Only one person from the research team can travel.

### **Stage II:**

**Team:** The team must consist of at least one WIN and one Brainport affiliated partner.

**Project Scope:** Priority will be given to the applicants who completed Stage I. The projects must focus on developing a product prototype, manufacturing process, and/or field validation of the technology. Projects aligned with WIN thematic areas are encouraged. Priority will be given to projects/inventions managed by Waterloo Commercialization Office (WatCO). If applicants choose to not engage with WatCO services, justification must be provided.

### **Application Guidelines**

#### **Stage I:**

The proposal should not exceed two (2) pages in total. The proposal should contain the following sections:

1. Introduction and Background (plain language summary for non-STEM experts for circulation to potential business partners)
2. Description of the technology including the following information:
  - What is the link between this innovation and the research conducted by the WIN PI?
  - In scientific/technical terms, provide a detailed description of the technology developed.
  - What are the applications of the technology, how it could be used and a list of exemplary customers.
  - This section may include graphs, diagrams, and pictures to explain the basics of the technology.
3. State of IP protection (provisional/full US patent/PCT application status; include overview of relationship with WatCO, or justify why WatCO services were not engaged).
4. **Stage II.** More detailed application guidelines will be provided when Stage I has been completed.