

Annex for Franco-Canadian projects

Lead Agency Procedure NSERC

Generic Call for Proposals 2024

Important

1. Franco-Canadian projects shall **be evaluated only by the NSERC Agency**, according to its own terms, through its Alliance International program. Full information will be available at the following address: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Joint_Calls-Appels_Collaborative_eng.asp
2. This document sets out detailed rules for the submission and funding procedures applicable to French teams working on Franco-Canadian projects.
3. It is essential to carefully read [work programme 2024, the generic call for proposals \(AAPG\) 2024, the AAPG 2024 guide](#), the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.
4. In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR Contact Information:

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

NSERC Contact Information:

alliance_quantumquantique@nserc-crsng.gc.ca: for questions about this collaborative opportunity please include "NSERC-ANR quantum" in the e-mail subject line

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH CANADA

By establishing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, the French National Research Agency (ANR) allows French researchers to initiate or extend their collaborative work with researchers from other countries. In this way, it hopes to encourage the emergence of European and International teams of excellence.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects **that clearly stand out** from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, ANR (*Agence nationale de la recherche*) and NSERC (*The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council*), have decided to enter into an agreement. Within this framework, ANR and NSERC established a *Lead Agency* opportunity.

In this context, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the *Lead Agency*) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and / or scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams¹ according to its own terms and conditions.

The 2024 Lead Agency procedure established between the ANR and NSERC recognizes the **NSERC as the "Lead Agency"** for the evaluation and for the selection of the Franco-Canadian PRCI projects.²

As a result, the submission and evaluation (administrative review and scientific peer review) of project proposals **are solely handled by NSERC**. Nevertheless, the French scientific coordinator and the other partners of the French party **must provide** certain administrative information to the ANR, according to the terms and conditions specified below.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSERC is to support projects in which there is genuine³ collaboration between Franco-Canadian partners.

Partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific inputs of each country and the added value of the international cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and Canadian projects must start and finish on the same dates. For information, NSERC requests the duration **up to 36 months**.

¹ A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

² International Collaborative Research Projects

³ Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

This collaborative opportunity with NSERC is open to scientific challenges in **quantum computing hardware and software** which aim to advance research in any of the following areas of quantum technologies, or a combination thereof:

ANR: Axe B.1 *Physics of condensed and diluted matter* (CE 30) and Axe E.6 *Quantum Technologies* (CE 47)

NSERC: [National Quantum Strategy \(NQS\) - Mission: Make Canada a world leader in the continued development, deployment and use of quantum computing hardware and software](#)

The research project proposal **must correspond both** to one of the scientific axes of the 2024 Generic call **and** to the NSERC NQS mission mentioned above.

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

French and Canadian partners must prepare a joint scientific project. Teams from each country must each appoint a **national scientific coordinator (for Canada, this would be the principal investigator)**.

NSERC is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

Project proposals must be submitted by Canadian principal investigators to NSERC via NSERC's online system to the regular Alliance International program.

Applicants should consult the information which will be available on NSERC's website under its National Quantum Strategy [funding opportunities](#) webpage.

The applicable deadline is **28 March 2024, 8:00 p.m.** (Canada ET)

French partners:

No registration of intention to submit a project is required by ANR in step 1.

For administrative reasons, although the submission and evaluation are conducted by the foreign agency, the French participants must submit the copy of their proposals to the ANR via the ANR submission site:

- **The same scientific project proposal as that submitted to NSERC, in the same format.**
Note, the acronym and title of the project provided to each agency must be the same.
- **The administrative and funding information** linked to **both** French and foreign partners:
 - o **The detailed** information is expected from the French partners. The French coordinator has to appear as **scientific coordinator** on the ANR submission website

- The **minimum**⁴ information is expected concerning Canadian partners : the Canadian principal investigator (**country referent**)⁵, the name of the University⁶, and the information concerning requested funding by Canadians to NSERC
- **A scientific panel** responsible for the scientific monitoring of the project in case of success (description of the scientific panels is available in the AAPG 2024 text). **Please note:** this choice **cannot be changed** once the closing date and time has passed.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (in particular of eligibility) to which all national scientific coordinators of the 2024 Generic call for proposals must comply (*see AAPG 2024 Guide, § B.5.2. Eligibility of full proposals*).

The deadline for submitting the administrative and funding information and a copy of the project proposal to the ANR is **29 March 2024, 5 p.m.** (Paris time). Projects proposals must be submitted to both agencies at due time. Those submitted to only one agency will be rejected.

The ANR submission website will open on January 29th, 2024, the link will be indicated on the ANR website, [on the generic 2024 call for proposals page](#).

4. ELIGIBILITY

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with **its own rules**.

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG 2024 Guide (cf. *§B.5.2 Eligibility of full proposals*) and detailed below:

- 1) The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The NSERC terms and conditions for the Alliance International program can be found at the following addresses:

- [Terms and conditions of applying for applicants](#)
- [Award terms and conditions](#)

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁷

Country (agency)	Submission to the foreign agency	Submission to the ANR	Duration	Participation of a company	Other
Canada (NSERC)	yes	copy of the project proposal	36 months maximum	not eligible for both agencies	Collaborators and partner organizations

⁴ Simplified entry

⁵ The information is essential for the data crosschecking with the NSERC

⁶ Partner as a legal entity

⁷ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

					(private, public, not-for-profit) from outside academia are not eligible
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To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.

5. EVALUATION

Projects shall **only be evaluated by NSERC** in accordance with its own rules.

NSERC will propose a list of projects to be funded by ANR.

The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams according to **its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

7. CALENDAR

- Proposal submissions on the NSERC website: 28 March 2024, 8:00 p.m. (Canada ET)
- Closure for submission of a copy of documents to the ANR: **29 March 2024, 5 p.m.** (Paris time)
- Joint decision and publication of results: October 2024 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2024 – January 2025 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.