

Guidelines for Partner Funds Matching

Eligible Partners

The major non-academic partners of a Mprime project should be the end users of the research (also known as receptors). The monetary funds contributed by these partners are referred to as Category A funds. Examples of current Mprime partners that fall into this category are MERCK Canada, Cistel Technology Corporation, Bell University Labs, Ballard Power Systems, McCain Foods Limited, Hydro-Quebec, and Maplesoft. At least 75% of the NCE award must be matched against Category A funds.

Some monetary funds from non-federal granting (and other similar) agencies may also be matched, and these are referred to as Category B funds. Examples are funds from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Alberta Ingenuity, and le Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FQRNT).

Depending on the nature of the interaction, a particular partner could provide either Category A or Category B funds. Please contact Mprime if you are unsure about the eligibility of partner funds and their category.

Federal granting agencies and other similar Federal organizations do not qualify as eligible partners. These include CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, NRC, NRC-IRAP, CFI, and CRC. In addition, university funds (such as startup grants) are not eligible to be matched by Mprime.

Rules for Full Projects

- Each existing project will work with the Scientific Director to develop a plan for securing partner contributions. This plan must be submitted with the project proposal and will form part of the project evaluation by the RMC. The plan will also be made available to referees.
- The matching ratio will be established by the RMC on a project-by-project basis.
- Partners must provide at least 25% of total project funds (NCE and non-NCE)
- Partner funds will be classified as either Category A (users) or Category B (non-users):
 - Category A refers to those funds contributed by a user of the research results, and this must be attested to in the support letter from the partner. Subsequent annual letters will also be solicited that describe the benefit accrued from the partnership.
 - Category B refers to all other funds from non-federal granting council sources.
- The Mprime Scientific Director will determine on a case-by-case basis the Category to which any partner contributions belong. Where projects disagree with this assessment, the issue will be referred to the RMC
- At least 75% of the NCE award must be matched against Category A funds
- Each partner should provide a letter to Mprime stating the purpose of the funding and any in-kind support. This letter should also indicate the period for which the funding applies
- Each project will be required to develop an exit strategy in light of the 2012 termination date for Mprime NCE funding. This could include a combination of:
 - Being phased out after specific milestones are met
 - Increased percentage of partner funding
 - Applications for other federal granting council support and
 - Reworking the project to access other Mprime programs.

- The NCE places certain restrictions on international collaborations. Refer to the Mprime Network Agreement or contact the Mprime Head Office for more details
- All partner funds are expected to flow to Mprime Inc. Where funds come directly to a university, the matching ratio will be at most one-to-one
- Mprime will allow a project to count partner funds for matching purposes for up to one year beyond the end date

Rules for Phased Out Projects

- As well as the rules above, full projects which apply for renewal but are phased out by the RMC will normally be awarded 50% of their last annual NCE award subject to satisfying all RMC conditions
- Phased-out projects can apply for the Internship Supplement Program
- Any unspent NCE funds must be returned to Mprime at the end of the funding period.

Rules for Seed Projects

- As well as the rules for full projects above, partners for seed projects will normally be required to provide 33% of the total project funding (NCE and non-NCE)
- Seed projects that are not funded as full projects will not receive phase out funds. Any unspent NCE funds must be returned at the termination of the project.