

REMAP SMARTSCALE PROGRAM

CALL FOR PROJECTS (October 2026)

Program Overview

The SmartScale Program supports Southern Ontario manufacturers facing tariff-related pressures, rising operating costs, supply chain disruption, and increasing global competition. Through funded expert support, implementation guidance, and shared investment, SmartScale helps SMEs accelerate productivity, modernization, automation, digital transformation, and supply chain improvement initiatives.

SmartScale projects will include expert-led advisory services including business need evaluations and development of a technology evaluation framework for project proponents. Pilot scale implementation of selected technology solutions will be available for demonstration and evaluation to successful project proponents. SmartScale initiatives will be delivered through 4-6 company cohorts where shared learnings, collaboration in technology evaluation and discussions of technology implementation best practices are encouraged and facilitated between cohort members in a collegial and confidential manner.

Projects are evaluated based on strategic alignment, business need, implementation readiness, expected business impact, organizational capacity, financial capacity, and measurable outcomes.

Project Size	Total Project Value (including SME contribution)	SME Cash Contribution
Small	Up to \$80,000	20% of total project value
Medium	Up to \$150,000	20% of total project value
Large	Up to \$250,000	20% of total project value
Successful applicants must provide a minimum 20% cash contribution over the course of the project plus in-kind participation through staff time, facilities access, operational support, and project engagement.		

Eligibility Criteria

Organization Type	Manufacturing SME (10–499 employees)
Location	Southern Ontario
Sector	Automotive, Steel, or related manufacturing sectors
Business Need	Demonstrate tariff-related pressures or competitiveness challenges
Commitment	Provide required cash and in-kind contributions and participate in implementation activities
Project Focus	Implementation-focused advanced manufacturing modernization initiative

Project Categories

Category	Description	Examples
Industrial Automation	Increase productivity, consistency, throughput and safety.	Robotics, cobots, automated machine tending or material handling

Digital Quality & Inspection	Improve quality, traceability and compliance.	Machine vision, automated inspection, AI quality systems
Connected Manufacturing	Improve visibility and operational decision-making.	IIoT, machine monitoring, dashboards, predictive maintenance
Digital Systems & Analytics	Improve planning and business intelligence.	MES, scheduling, digital work instructions, analytics

Applicant Information

Provide corporate and contact information:

Legal Company Name	
Operating Name	
Address	
Website	
Primary Contact	
Title	
Email	
Phone	
Employees	
Annual Revenue Range	

Executive Summary

Project Title	
Primary Project Category	
Secondary Project Category	
SmartScale Project Lead Name and Function from Proponent Organization	
Project Size	
Estimated Total Project Value	
Requested SmartScale Contribution	
Applicant Cash Contribution	
Estimated In-Kind Contribution	
Anticipated Start Date	
Anticipated Completion Date	

Project Overview (Maximum 1,000 characters)

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Manufacturing Operations Profile

Manufacturing Facilities Location	
Number of Production Employees	
Shifts Operated	
Primary Manufacturing Processes	
Advanced Manufacturing Processes Currently Implemented (Robotics, Automation, Machine Learning, AI, Digital Analytics, etc.)	
Primary Products	
Key Markets Served	
Relationship to Steel-processing, Automotive or Adjacent Sectors	
Export Markets	
Annual Production Volume	
Description of Tariff Impacts over the past 12 months and expected over the next 12 months	

Top 3 Current Operational Priorities:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Productivity Improvement | ☐ Quality Improvement | ☐ Cost Reduction |
| ☐ Capacity Expansion | ☐ Workforce Development | ☐ Automation |
| ☐ Digital Transformation | ☐ Market Diversification | ☐ Supply Chain Resilience |

Business Challenge

Describe the business challenge, impact on tariff-related pressures, operating impacts, competitiveness concerns, supply chain disruptions, labour constraints and/or customer requirements and why action is needed now.

- The challenge or opportunity driving this project
- The impact on operations, competitiveness, growth, customers or market position
- How this project will reduce tariff-related pressures, rising costs, supply chain disruptions or other market pressures
- Why addressing this challenge is important now

Maximum 3,000 characters.

Proposed Project

Describe the proposed implementation initiative, technology solution, modernization opportunity, implementation scope and expected benefits.

- The solutions you would like to investigate and key technologies or capabilities for implementation
- Expected operational improvements and risks that will be mitigated by the phased roll-out of technology
- Anticipated implementation timeline and expected proponent team involvement along this timeline

Maximum 3,000 characters.

Why SmartScale Support is Required

Explain why the project would be difficult to undertake without SmartScale support and how support accelerates implementation: incrementality, barriers, acceleration benefits and impact of SmartScale support.

- Why the project would be difficult to undertake without SmartScale support
- How SmartScale funding and expert support will accelerate the project and reduce implementation risks
- Whether the project would proceed without support and how timing, scope or outcomes would differ

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Project Readiness Assessment

Readiness Factor	Complete	In Progress	Not Started
Business problem defined	☐	☐	☐
Project lead identified	☐	☐	☐
Executive sponsorship secured	☐	☐	☐
Resources identified	☐	☐	☐
Budget identified	☐	☐	☐
Technology options reviewed	☐	☐	☐
Vendor discussions completed	☐	☐	☐
Implementation plan developed	☐	☐	☐
Technologies evaluated/demonstrated in project pilot setting	☐	☐	☐

Readiness Commentary (Maximum 1,500 characters)

Project Team & Organizational Capacity

Identify executive sponsor, project lead, departments involved and internal resources.

Executive Sponsor	
Project Lead	
Operations Representative	
Finance Representative	
External Partners	

Expected Outcomes & KPIs

Provide measurable business outcomes and targets.

Outcome	Current State Metric	Target Improvement (% increase)
Productivity		
Throughput		
Lead Time		
Quality		
Cost Reduction		
Supply Chain Resilience		
Employment Impact		

Financial Capacity

Demonstration of the ability to fund and sustain the project to successful completion.

Revenue Range	<\$5M	\$5M–\$10M	\$10M–\$25M	\$25M–\$50M	\$50M+
Choose one	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Project Funding Overview	Existing Operating Budget	Capital Expenditure Budget	Financing Arrangement	Other (specify)
Estimated value				

Commitment	Confirmation	
Financial	☐	Organization has capacity to provide required cash contribution and sustain project.
Human Resources	☐	Organization has capacity to dedicate the time and human resources to sustain the project
Executive Leadership	☐	The project proposed herein aligns with the organization's strategic objectives and is considered a priority strategic initiative until successful completion

Project Budget & Contributions

Funding Source	
Applicant Cash Contribution	
SmartScale Funding Request	
Other Funding Sources (Government)	
Total Project Value	

In-Kind Contributions

Contribution Type	Estimated Value (\$)	Description
Employee Time		
Engineering/Technical Support		
Project Management		
Production Support		
Facilities & Equipment Access		
Other		

Supporting Documentation

Applicants may be requested to provide:

- Corporate profile and legal information
- Description of manufacturing operations
- Financial statements (past 2 years or current management statements)
- Evidence of tariff-related pressures or customer requirements
- Evidence of ability to provide required cash contribution
- Additional supporting information relevant to the proposed project

REMAP and Company Roles

REMAP will provide structured implementation support, including readiness assessment, value stream mapping, technology identification, implementation planning, project oversight, performance measurement, and optimization support.

The applicant organization will provide project leadership, operational participation, access to facilities and data, subject matter expertise, implementation resources, cash contribution, and in-kind support required to successfully execute the project.

Submission Checklist

- ☐ Application completed
- ☐ Executive Summary completed
- ☐ KPI table completed
- ☐ Supporting documentation attached (as needed)
- ☐ Executive approval obtained

Declaration and Authorization

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete and that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the organization.

Name	
Title	
Signature	
Date	