



Science and Technology Platforms Access Policy

INTRODUCTION

Genome Canada is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to developing and implementing a national strategy in genomics and proteomics research for the benefit of all Canadians. By means of investments from the Government of Canada, Genome Canada has become the primary funding and information resource relating to genomics and proteomics in Canada and has established six Genome Centres across the country (Atlantic, Québec, Ontario, the Prairies, Alberta, and British Columbia). As stated in the *Funding Agreement between Genome Canada and the Government of Canada*, this mission includes a commitment to provide researchers across Canada access to the Science and Technology (S&T) Platforms that have been funded through competitive international peer review.

This policy establishes the guidelines to be used for Genome Canada-funded Platforms to provide access to resources for researchers who are not affiliated with (or associated with) Genome Canada's large-scale research projects. The intent of these guidelines is to help facilitate Genome Canada-funded Platforms in their effort to broaden and expand their user base to include all public sector users in Canada (e.g. Researchers from federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals and not-for profit organizations), International academic researchers, and the Canadian and International biotechnology and pharmaceutical research community.

The policy is intended to provide a broad framework that is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the particular conditions of each funded Platform. An abiding principle embedded in this policy is the expectation that all Genome Canada-funded S&T Platforms will be accessible for fee-for-service and collaborative requests based on available time and resources.

ELIGIBLE "USERS"

The Genome Canada S&T Platforms are accessible to researchers from federal and provincial governments, universities, hospitals and not-for-profit organizations. In addition, access may also be provided to researchers from industry in Canada and academia and industry outside of Canada.

ASSIGNING PRIORITY

1st Priority

- Genome Canada approved projects

2nd Priority

- Requests from eligible public sector users in Canada

3^d Priority

- All other requests

Each Platform will develop a mechanism for decision making with respect to the prioritization of requests, which will be determined by a number of factors, including the above priority ranking, the level of demand, and the complexity of requests.

PRICING

Where the users are researchers from the public sector, the pricing will be based only on the variable costs of providing the service (eg. consumables, technicians' salaries and consultation time)

Where the users are researchers from the private sector, full cost-recovery is required, and the pricing will be based on both the variable costs as described above, and other direct costs such as overhead, amortization expense related to equipment costs, etc.

Prices will be set by each Platform using the above criteria as guidelines. Variations in prices may be due to the type of relationship between the user and the Platform (collaborative or fee-for-service), the level of interaction required (e.g. with or without post data-generation analysis), and the magnitude of the request which may benefit from volume cost savings. Platforms must not provide services to any users (collaborative or fee-for-service) at prices below the variable cost of the service as defined above.

PLATFORM/USER RELATIONSHIP

Platforms are required to provide access on a fee-for-service basis for services that do not include any substantial data analysis nor require the platform to conduct technology development. Alternatively, users may receive services through a collaborative agreement, where at the discretion of the Director and/or the Platform Management Committee, more extensive interaction with the user is required to provide high quality results. Each platform will provide users with a written Statement of Work (SOW) that outlines the parameters of the service provided (eg. cost, timing, IP rights, etc., and whether strictly a fee-for-service arrangement or a collaborative arrangement.) Basic project design expertise is provided to all users by on-site experts at Platform locations and funds for this expertise are provided through direct funding of the Platforms from Genome Canada.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

If the Platform's personnel contribute to the creation of intellectual property, then under applicable patent law, inventors should be included in any patent filings. Ownership of intellectual property should be agreed to before services are rendered. When services are rendered on a fee-for-service basis, intellectual property should remain exclusively with the user of the Platform.

PROCESS FOR ACCESS

Potential users can contact either the appropriate personnel at the Genome Centre or directly contact Platform personnel ([Annex A](#)). During the project development stage, platform personnel will help design the appropriate experiment, negotiate service or collaboration agreements, define the details of the project deliverables, and provide a SOW. For Genome Canada competitions, SOWs are required for inclusion in a project proposal. Upon securing project funding, a full agreement will be negotiated between the user and the Platform.