

Program Overview

About the Program

Accelerate is a collaboration between ExxonMobil and the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR). The program provides non-dilutive, in-kind technical assistance to U.S.- based innovators. Selected companies work directly with NLR researchers to develop and de-risk their technologies.

The program is designed to help early-to-mid stage companies move their technology forward faster by accessing NLR's technical expertise and laboratory capabilities and connecting with ExxonMobil.

What Selected Companies Receive

- \$250,000 in non-dilutive technical assistance per awardee (in-kind support from NLR researchers and facilities).
- Technical derisking from NLR researchers leveraging laboratory capabilities, and equipment
- Connections to NLR network of investors, accelerators, and industry partners
- On-going engagement with ExxonMobil during the program.

Eligibility

Technology Focus Areas

ExxonMobil Accelerate is seeking technology solutions in advanced materials in the following market sectors:

- **Construction** — solutions improving construction speed/cost, building energy efficiency, fire/environmental resistance, or end-of-life disposition.
- **Transportation (aerospace, automotive, marine)** — solutions improving fuel efficiency, safety, manufacturing speed/cost, or end-of-life disposition.
- **Energy Storage** — solutions improving cycle life, unit capacity, reduced leakage, safety, manufacturing speed/cost, or end-of-life disposition.
- **Electronics & Computing** — solutions enhancing electron mobility, thermal management, manufacturing speed/cost, or end-of-life disposition.

Only applications relevant to the technical focus areas and materials of interest will be considered for an award. NLR has the right to refuse any submission for incompleteness or unresponsiveness to the technical topic areas or materials.

Company Requirements

The Accelerate program is open to registered organizations only. Individual applicants are not eligible. Additionally, organizations must:

- Be legally registered U.S. entity with a registered tax identification number (EIN)
- Headquartered in the United States
- Meet domestic ownership, control, and influence requirements
- Have a working prototype at TRL 4 or above

Materials of Interest

Solutions should involve one or more of the following:

- Polymers and polymer composites (matrix and filler)
- Hydrocarbon phase change materials and cooling fluids
- Carbon materials (excluding carbon fibers)
- Ceramics, including polymer ceramic composites
- Battery electrolyte materials

Commercialization Requirements

In addition to the above, eligible technologies must meet the following commercialization requirements:

- Technology or business model must be **novel** with a **credible path to scale and commercialization within 3 to 5 years**
- Solution must address a **potential customer segment of at least \$1 billion annually** without dependence on subsidies.

Program Timeline

- Application Open: July 16, 2026
- Application Close: August 28, 2026 11:59 PM MT.
- Award Announcement: Fall 2026
- Technical Incubation at NLR: Begins Fall/Winter 2026.

How to Apply

1. Review the eligibility criteria above to confirm your company and technology qualify.
2. Register for an account in the [online application portal](#).
3. Complete and submit your application before the deadline.
4. If selected as a finalist, you will be invited to participate in a virtual pitch and Q&A session with the NLR and ExxonMobil review committee.
5. Finalists may be asked to provide additional due diligence materials.

See section below “How to Submit Your Application to Accelerate” for detailed instructions.

Selection Criteria

Accelerate leverages subject matter experts at NLR and ExxonMobil to review applications, evaluating eligible applications for the following criteria:

- Technology readiness, development plans, risk management, and IP protection (or strategy to protect it going forward) are credible and well-documented.
- The market opportunity is clearly defined, validated, and large enough to be meaningful, with a credible path to a \$1 billion annual market without relying on subsidies, along with cost competitiveness and a realistic plan for manufacturing and scale-up.
- The go-to-market plan shows real customer demand, useful partnerships, and a clear long-term vision, including how the company plans to grow and eventually exit.
- The business model, revenue, and funding plan are realistic, with enough runway or a credible funding plan to support near-term goals.
- The team has the right mix of technical and business skills, with any gaps covered by advisors or a clear hiring plan.
- The technical assistance request is clear, with well-defined deliverables and milestones that meaningfully advance the technology's path to market, and the company is positioned to benefit from working with NLR and ExxonMobil.

Application FAQ

Should I Include confidential, proprietary, or business sensitive information in my application?

Applicants should not include any confidential, proprietary, or business-sensitive information in their applications. We do, however, encourage applicants to provide nonproprietary information, technical detail, and data to allow for a quality review by NLR and Exxon.

Does the program take any equity ownership in my company?

No. Neither NLR or Exxon will not take any equity ownership awarded companies. The program provides non-dilutive support via technical assistance.

What technical capabilities and facilities does NLR offer through this program?

NLR brings a wide range of materials science capabilities to support advanced material innovators in the program. These include:

- Imaging and microscopy: Advanced electron microscopy (SEM, TEM, STEM), atomic force microscopy, and specialized techniques like cryo imaging and AI-guided microscopy for detailed structural and chemical analysis at the nanoscale and atomic scale.
- Materials characterization: Tools to analyze composition, structure, and properties of metals, polymers, and other materials, including X-ray and spectroscopy-based methods, optical and electrical characterization, mechanical testing, and thermal property analysis.
- Materials, nano, and thin film synthesis: Capabilities for synthesizing and fabricating advanced materials, including thin films and nanostructured materials, using techniques such as molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), physical vapor deposition (PVD), and related methods.
- Electrochemistry and batteries: Capabilities for developing and testing battery materials, electrocatalysts, fuel cells, and electrolyzers, including a dedicated battery recycling research center.
- Non-thermal processing: Plasma, electrochemical, and light-driven methods for more efficient chemical and materials processing.
- Advanced semiconductors: Work on next-generation semiconductor materials, including perovskites, for energy and electronics applications.
- Membrane and separations science and engineering: Synthesis and manufacturing of advanced membranes for industrial separations and water purification.
- Computing and modeling: High-performance computing resources, including Kestrel supercomputer, supporting AI-driven material discovery and advanced simulation tools.

Learn more about NLR researchers and the laboratory's capabilities on the NLR website: [Materials, Chemical, and Computational Science Center](#), the [Science and Technology Facility](#), the [Energy Systems Integration Facility](#), and the new [Energy Materials and Processing at Scale facility](#) (opening in 2027).

Can foreign nationals or international companies participate in Accelerate?

Applicants must be domestic entities with no or minimal foreign ownership, influence, or control. This includes the citizenship of individuals working for or with the Awardee. Each applicant will be vetted for foreign influence. Before an award is finalized, Awardees must complete a Participant Data Sheet. This information introduces the Awardee to Accelerate and allows the program to complete the required internal review on which the award will be contingent.

What are Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)?

A TRL is a company's technology readiness level. Accelerate follows the U.S. Department of Energy's TRL definitions. The Accelerate program welcomes companies with technologies at TRL 4+.

TRL	Description
1	Scientific research begins translation to applied R&D. Lowest level of technology readiness; scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development. Examples might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties.
2	Invention begins. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Applications are speculative, and there may be no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions. Examples are limited to analytic studies.
3	Active R&D is initiated. This includes analytical studies and laboratory studies to physically validate analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology. Examples include components that are not yet integrated or representative.
4	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that the pieces will work together.
5	Fidelity of breadboard technology improves significantly. The basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements, so it can be tested in a simulated environment. Examples include "high fidelity" laboratory integration of components.
6	Model/prototype is tested in a relevant environment. A representative model or prototype system, well beyond TRL 5, is tested in a relevant environment. Represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness. Examples include testing a prototype in a high-fidelity laboratory environment or in a simulated operational environment.

7	Prototype near or at planned operational system. Represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring demonstration of an actual system prototype in an operational environment.
8	Technology is proven to work. Actual technology completed and qualified through test and demonstration.
9	Actual application of technology is in its final form. Technology proven through successful operations.

How can I contact Accelerate staff?

Questions, comments, and concerns are welcome at accelerate@nlr.gov

How to Submit Your Application to Accelerate

Accelerate uses a platform called [Survey Monkey Apply \(SMA\)](#) to collect applications for the program. Follow steps 1-3 below to complete your application.

Step 1: Log-in to or Register for an SMA User Account

Visit the application [link](#) and either 1.) click

Log-In if you have an existing account or 2.)

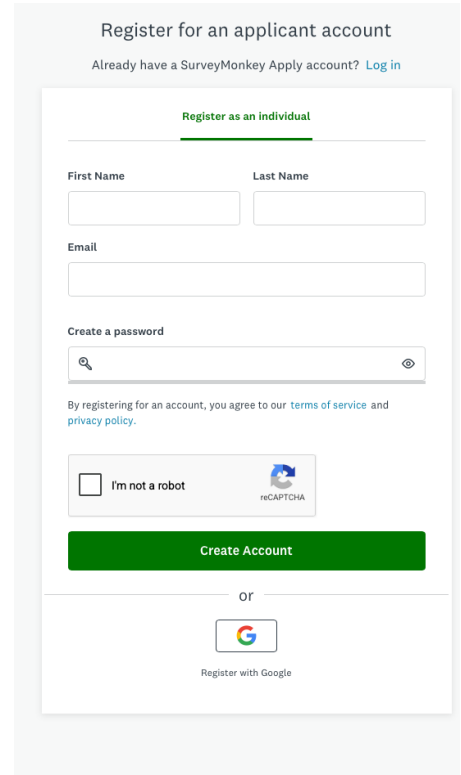
Click on **Register** to create an account.

Notes:

- **Registering a new account:** If you **have not** applied to an Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program at NLR before, you will need to create an account.
 - Click on **Register** button



- Complete registration form, entering your name, email, and password, then click **Create Account** button
 - SMA will then email you a verification email to the address you specified in the sign-up. When you receive the email, click the **Complete Registration** button in the email.
 - You will then be taken to the SMA application page, click **View Programs** button
 - Complete your eligibility profile¹ by selecting the option for **I am a company or person applying to a program** and select **Accelerate** as relevant program. Click **Save My Profile** to save.
 - You will then be taken to the program page where you can start your Accelerate application.
- **Returning IEC NLR Applicants:** If you have applied to an Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program at NLR before, you will need to change your program eligibility settings before you continue.
 - Log into your existing SMA account
 - In the top right corner of the webpage, click on **your name** which will open a drop-down menu and select **My Account**.
 - Click on the **Eligibility** tab
 - Click on button Fill out eligibility profile and select the option for **I am a company or person applying to a program** and select **Accelerate** as relevant program. Click **Save My Profile** to save.



Register for an applicant account

Already have a SurveyMonkey Apply account? [Log in](#)

Register as an individual

First Name Last Name

Email

Create a password

By registering for an account, you agree to our [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#).

☐ I'm not a robot 

Create Account

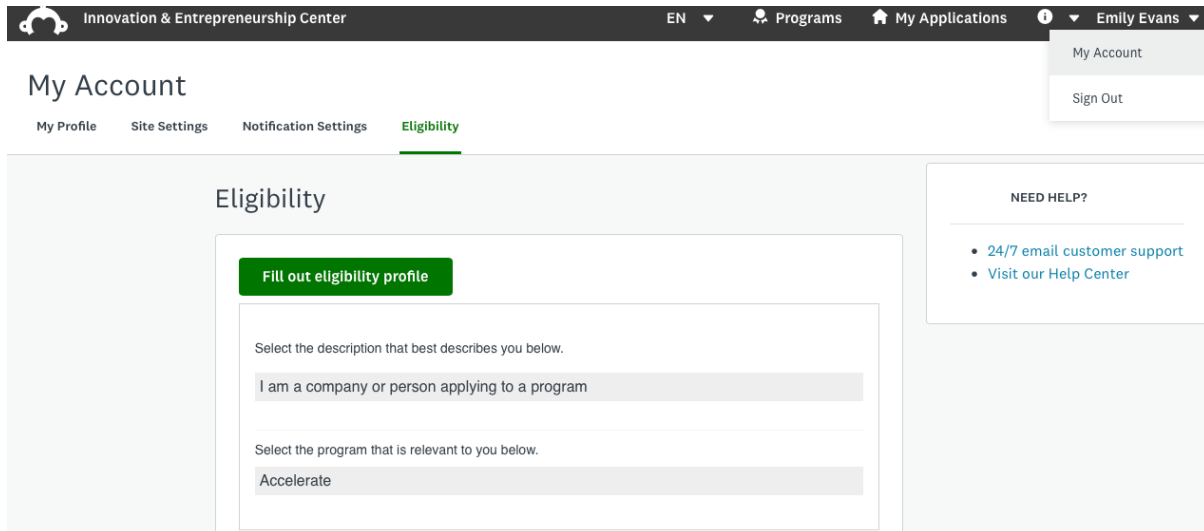
OR



Register with Google

¹ Please note: this profile does not reflect full program eligibility. Applicants will need to provide additional information during the application process to determine final eligibility for the Accelerate program. For more information, please visit accelerateincubator.com or review the program eligibility section above.

- You will then be taken to the program page where you can start your Accelerate application

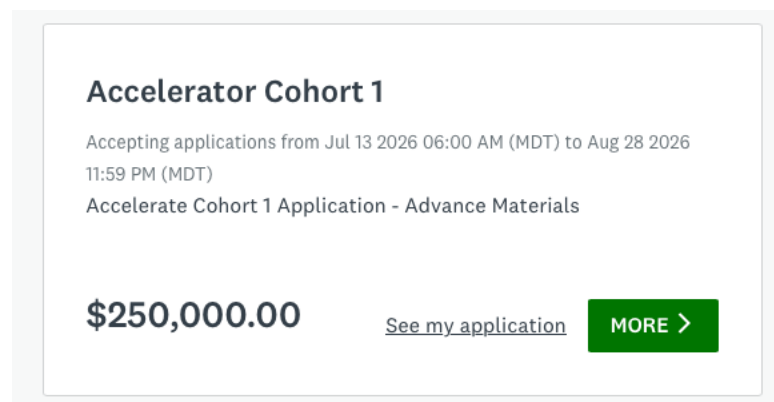


Step 2: Start Your Accelerate Application

After you have logged into your account or created a new one, navigate to the Accelerate Cohort 1 application by clicking on **More >** from the program overview page and then click **Apply**.

Notes:

- You will need to name your application e.g. Company Name - Title of Application and then click **Create Application**.
- To submit your application, you will need to complete all tasks (Section A – K) On the left-hand side of the application screen, you will see a progress bar with the number of application tasks you've completed. In the center of your screen, you will see the tasks assigned to you.
- You may complete the tasks in any order. While completing a task, you have the following options:
 - **Save & Continue Editing:** Use if you aren't done and would like to continue working on the task later. Note, the SMA platform autosaves every 20 seconds.



- **Mark as Complete:** Use if you are done with the task. After marking as complete, you will be taken to a page to review your answers. If you'd like to make edits, select the ●●● in the upper right corner and select **Edit** from the drop-down menu.

Step 3: Submit the application

Once you've completed all the tasks, select **Review & Submit**. Once submitted, your application is still available to edit any time before the deadline².

² Cohort 1 application deadline: August 28, 2026 11:59 PM MT