

# MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

## BC-led Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster Advances To Second Round of the Application Process for Federal Funding

On May 24, 2017, the Government of Canada launched the [Innovation Superclusters Initiative](#), a new Canadian initiative. After submitting a 'Letter of Intent' in July 2017, the Canadian Digital Supercluster consortium led by technology leaders including [TELUS](#), [Microsoft](#), [D-Wave](#), [Urthecast](#), [Finger Food Studios](#) and [PHEMI](#); leading industry players including [Teck](#), [Timberwest](#), [LifeLabs](#) and [Avcorp](#); and six post-secondary institutions including [BCIT](#), [Emily Carr](#), [SFU](#), [UBC](#), [UNBC](#) and [UVic](#) and supported by the [BC Tech Association](#), [BC Business Council](#), the [Premier's Technology Council](#), [Wavefront](#), [Lifesciences BC](#) and the [Research University's Council of BC](#) has advanced to the second round of applications. Through this initiative, starting in 2018, the federal government will make investments of up to \$950 million over five years to support and boost the productivity, competitiveness and innovation of business-led superclusters that will generate major economic, social and industrial benefits for the country.

The Digital Technology Supercluster promises to unlock the potential of the data-driven, intelligent enterprise. It will provide domestic business with added competitive advantages, enhanced productivity and future-focused solutions, positioning Canadian businesses at the forefront of the global economy. Leveraging the ethos and brand of Vancouver's city-region and BC's reach and economic diversity, the Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster will become a globally coveted innovation ecosystem that is collaborative, catalytic and coordinated, surpassing innovation centres around the world.

The collaborative effort of the BC-led consortium has been exemplary with national corporate and industry leaders sharing a vision to position Canada as a global digital technology leader. The BC-led Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster is comprised of three core components to leverage BC's competitive advantages:

### 1. Technology platforms

The Province's strengths in data collection, analytics and visualization technologies leverage core capabilities in IoT, machine learning, advanced analytics, quantum computing and augmented and virtual reality. The market is growing substantially and is expected to reach \$100 billion globally by 2025.

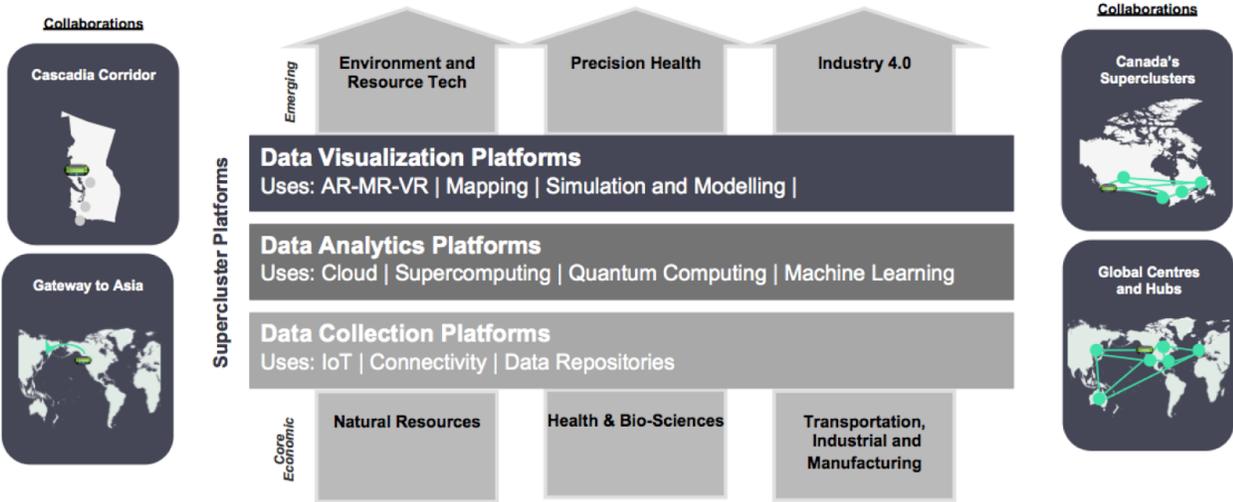
### 2. Industry platforms

Initially, commercial products and service platforms will be developed by focusing on three industry application areas that are of major importance in BC and the national economy: 1) environment and resource tech, 2) precision health and 3) industry 4.0 (solving production challenges by analyzing all the machines, tools and input materials to learn new optimization practices).

### 3. Geographic focus and leverage

The geographic scope of the supercluster is set against Vancouver’s globally recognized brand and capitalizes on the geographic advantage of the West Coast, Asia and the Cascadia Innovation Corridor to connect resources and market access. The West Coast offers an ideal starting point for a cross-Canada Digital Technology Supercluster – one that will ultimately connect digital capabilities across the country as well as applications that drive competitiveness in other vertical markets.

### Canada’s Digital Technology Supercluster



The Supercluster will ultimately have a commercialization portfolio aimed at attractive market segments as digital transformation opens over \$200 billion worth of global opportunities. The Supercluster will generate new world-leading companies, and commercialize new products, processes and services that position firms to scale, integrate into global value chains, and transition to high-value activities and become global market leaders. This includes follow-up demonstration, commercialization and market access activities that boost productivity, performance and competitiveness. Collaborations among technology solution providers will accelerate the creation of novel new technologies that build Canada’s competitive advantage. This in turn will attract cutting edge research, investment and talent.

Through BC’s position as the nation’s leading tech supercluster, the province has the opportunity to lead collaborations across Canada. Starting from the West Coast, BC can initiate and engage companies, innovators, and hubs across the country to make the “re-imagined” future a competitive advantage for Canadian industries.

The government launched their cross-country tour starting in Halifax to announce to shortlisted applicants [here](#).