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Request for Proposal (RFP) for Hosting Quantum Days 2028

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

We invite proposals for hosting Quantum Days 2028, Canada's flagship quantum science and technology conference that brings together leading researchers, industry professionals, and students in the field of quantum science and technology. Our goal is to foster collaboration, share the latest research findings, and discuss the future direction of quantum technologies.

As organizers of Quantum Days, we bring to the table a proven track record of success in hosting a premier pan-Canadian event that shines a spotlight on the forefront of quantum research and innovation. Our partnership offers significant benefits designed to elevate the quantum research profile in your region and encourage meaningful collaborations. Here's what we offer:

National and International Visibility

In collaboration with our partners, we aim to highlight the quantum research and developments happening in their region on both national and international stages. Through Quantum Days, your organization and region will be recognized as a key hub in the global quantum research community, attracting attention from industry leaders, policymakers, and top-tier researchers.

Integration of Local Quantum Research and Innovation

We are dedicated to showcasing the host region's contributions to the quantum sector by incorporating site visits and local research highlights into the Quantum Days program. This approach offers attendees a unique opportunity to see the innovative quantum research and development activities offered by your organization and within the local ecosystem firsthand.

Collaborative Event Planning and Execution

The Quantum Days organizing team is committed to a partnership approach in the planning and execution of the conference. We collaborate closely with our partners to ensure the event not only meets but surpasses expectations, delivering a memorable and impactful experience for all participants.

Networking and Community Building

Hosting Quantum Days facilitates invaluable networking opportunities, fostering collaborations among researchers, industry professionals, and students from across Canada and around the globe.

1.2 Organization Background: Deep Tech Canada

We're a non-profit aiming to make Canada a leader in addressing pressing global challenges through innovative collaboration. We pursue high-impact opportunities, develop world-class projects, and provide insights to shape Canadian policy in various sectors. Our community of innovators, investors, and experts harnesses global expertise and resources to drive innovation, transforming industries and tackling global challenges.

1.3 2026 Summary

- Total Attendees: 404
- Partners: 5
- Sponsors: 32
- Exhibitors: 23
- Speakers: 50
- Posters presented: 74

2. Conference Details

2.1 Event Dates

Options for conference dates in 2028:

- February 16-18, 2028
- May 10-12, 2028

2.2 Expected Attendance

Numbers will vary depending on the location of Quantum Days 2028. Expected attendance is between 400-600 people from across Canada with international delegations expected.

- 60% participation from academia/research labs/students
- 20% industry
- 10% government
- 10% other (investors, non-profits, start-ups)

2.3 Program Outline

The conference program will be 3 days in length with keynotes, panel discussions, invited talks, and sponsor sessions. Quantum Days 2026 program can be found here.

3. Venue Requirements

3.1 Meeting Spaces

- Plenary session room for 400-600 attendees.
- Three breakout rooms for parallel sessions (optional depending on program).
- Exhibition space for sponsors and poster sessions.
    - Exhibitor space should accommodate a minimum of 12 (twelve) 10 ft x 10 ft booths.
    - Poster space should accommodate a minimum of 20 (twenty) 4 ft x 8 ft boards, ideally in a high-traffic area.
    - Exhibitor space should be in a high-traffic area (near food/refreshments) and allow full capacity for event attendees.
- Space for registration and networking activities should have the capacity for 400+ attendees.
- All spaces must accommodate accessibility needs.

3.2 Technical Requirements

- High-speed Wi-Fi for all attendees.
- Audiovisual equipment for presentations.
- Live streaming capabilities for key sessions (optional depending on program).

3.3 Venue Availability and Confirmation

Proposed venues included in an Expression of Interest (EOI) are understood to be available at the time of submission. As part of the evaluation process, proponents are asked to:

- Indicate the current availability status of the proposed venue for the requested conference dates (e.g., available, tentative hold, or not yet confirmed).
- Identify whether a date hold or provisional booking can be placed upon shortlisting or selection.
- Notify Deep Tech Canada promptly if the proposed venue becomes unavailable at any stage of the selection or planning process.

In the event that the originally proposed venue is no longer available, the partner/host will be expected to propose a comparable alternative venue that meets the requirements outlined in Section 3. Any significant change in venue may be subject to review and approval by Deep Tech Canada.

3.4 Catering Needs

For the conference we require access to a reliable catering company capable of accommodating a variety of catering needs throughout the event.

This includes:

- Coffee breaks and light breakfast options each conference day.
- Availability of snacks during breaks.
- A networking reception with a selection of hors d'oeuvres and beverages.
- Lunches with diverse menu options.

An important consideration is the need to cater to a range of dietary restrictions, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free preferences among our attendees.

4. Accommodation and Transportation

4.1 Accommodation

The Quantum Days 2028 conference anticipates 400-600 attendees, requiring a range of accommodation options to suit different preferences and budgets. We seek proposals from venues or local accommodations that can offer:

- A sufficient number of rooms to comfortably accommodate 400-600 attendees.
- A variety of room types and pricing levels to ensure affordability for all participants, including students, professionals, and academics from diverse backgrounds.
- Proximity to the conference venue or easy access through public transportation to facilitate convenient travel to and from the event.

4.2 Transportation

Quantum Days seeks to ensure a seamless transportation experience for all attendees, whether they are local or traveling from afar. We request proposals that consider access to reliable and convenient transportation options:

- Airport Transfers
- Public Transportation
- Shuttle Services
- Accessibility
- Local Information

5. Financial Information and Partnership Expectations

5.1 Budget Overview

The Quantum Days Conference operates with a comprehensive budget aimed at ensuring the successful execution of the event. While specific allocations will vary based on received in-kind support and sponsorship, our overarching goal is to deliver an exceptional conference experience within a budget range of $300,000 to $400,000. This event is funded through a blend of sponsorships, registration fees, and grant support.

5.2 Partnership and Sponsorship

The selected host city or partner is expected to be engaged with Deep Tech Canada in planning Quantum Days 2028.

- Partner Sponsorship: Agreeing to become a partner sponsor with a financial commitment, reflecting a strong partnership and investment in the event's success.
- Promotion and Marketing: Actively promoting the event to maximize attendance and visibility, utilizing the host's local and wider networks.
- Sales and Sponsorship Recruitment: Assisting in the sales process by leveraging local contacts to recruit additional sponsors.

- Government Grant Support: Working closely with the organizing committee to identify relevant government grants.

5.3 Consortium or Joint Submissions

Partners or potential hosts may collaborate with a consortium of organizations or institutions to submit a joint Expression of Interest (EOI) for hosting Quantum Days 2028. Submissions from consortia are welcomed, provided they follow these guidelines:

- **Lead Contact**: One organization must be designated as the primary contact for all communications with Deep Tech Canada. This lead will be responsible for coordinating the submission and ongoing communication.
- **Roles and Responsibilities**: The EOI must clearly outline each consortium members role, contributions, and responsibilities in hosting the event.
- **Decision Making and Communication**: The consortium should describe how it will organize internally to make decisions efficiently and keep everyone aligned. This includes:
    - Who has the authority to make key decisions (financial, programming, sponsorship, etc.)
    - How decisions will be shared and coordinated to ensure smooth planning and execution of the event
- **Marketing and Promotion**: Deep Tech Canada will only promote one organization publicly in all announcements, newsletters, social media, and press materials and event signage. The partner/host consortium must decide in advance which member will receive this recognition.
- **Partner Benefits Allocation**: For consortium submissions, partner/host benefits are **not** provided per organization. All benefits—including full event registrations and discounted passes, speaking opportunities in the Quantum Showcase Session, exhibitor booth and career fair table, social media announcements, and pre- and post-event newsletters—will be allocated **once** and provided only to the designated lead organization. It is the responsibility of the consortium to internally determine how these benefits are shared or used among consortium members.
- **Financial and In-Kind Contributions:** Clearly specify which consortium members are providing financial support, in-kind contributions, or other resources.

5.3 Commitment to Collaboration

This partnership is more than a financial transaction; it is a commitment to collaboratively ensuring the conference's success. By combining resources, expertise, and networks, we aim to create a dynamic and impactful event that benefits all stakeholders.

6. Submission Guidelines

6.1 Deadline

Deadline to apply is June 5, 2026.

6.2 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation and selection of the host city/partner for Quantum Days will be conducted the Quantum Days Executive Steering Committee. This advisory body works collaboratively with Deep Tech Canada to shape key aspects of the event, including strategic planning, host city selection, program development, and special initiatives. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive assessment of proposals based on a deep understanding of the conference's goals, values, and requirements.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Financial and In-Kind Support:** The willingness and ability of the host city/partner to contribute as a partner sponsor, including financial support, in-kind contributions, and assistance with securing additional sponsorships and grants.
2. **Facilities and Services:** The quality, accessibility, and suitability of the proposed venue and associated services, including accommodation, catering, and transportation, to meet the needs of attendees.
3. **Sustainability and Accessibility:** Commitment to environmental sustainability and accessibility for all participants, reflecting the values of Quantum Days and Deep Tech Canada.
4. **Local Ecosystem and Community Engagement:** The potential for local engagement and the contribution of the host city's tech and academic communities to the success and enrichment of the conference.

6.3 Contact Information

Please send your proposals through the online form here.

If you have any questions or would like a meeting to discuss further, please contact Jackie Preece (Jackie@deeptechcanada.ca)

Are you interested in hosting future Quantum Days events? Please contact us.