



CANADA FONDS DES MÉDIAS
MEDIA FUND DU CANADA

medienboard
BerlinBrandenburg



CANADA-GERMANY DIGITAL MEDIA INCENTIVE

By Canada Media Fund and
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

2024-2025 GUIDELINES

The Canada-Germany Digital Media Incentive

The Canada-Germany Digital Media Incentive (the “**Incentive**”) is a collaboration between the Canada Media Fund (“**CMF**” or **Party**) and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH (“**MBB**” or **Party**) (CMF and MBB, collectively the “**Parties**”) to create a joint program that encourages co-development and/or co-production of eligible digital media projects.

The combined total budget for the Incentive will be CAN\$550,000 (or approximately €375,000), with each Party contributing CAN\$275,000 (or approximately €187,500). The total Maximum Contribution for each funded project shall be CAN\$400,000 (or approximately €270,000). The contribution from each country in each project will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This contribution will take the form of:

- In development:
 - CMF contribution: a repayable advance¹
 - MBB contribution: a loan²
- In production:
 - CMF: a recoupable investment³
 - MBB: a loan

The Incentive may be combined with funding from other MBB’s programs and CMF’s programs. It will be awarded separately, and in addition to, any amounts contributed through other programs and without regard to Maximum Contribution (as defined in CMF and MBB’s respective Guidelines) amounts applicable to those programs. In no case, however, will CMF or MBB contribute more than 75% of the respective Canadian and Berlin-Brandenburg financing from any combination of CMF and MBB’s Programs.

The Incentive shall fund projects through a selective process in which Eligible Projects are assessed according to an Evaluation grid (see below).

Eligible Projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Projects that have already received funding for one stage of activity from one of the Parties will not be eligible to the Incentive for the same stage.
2. The project is either an international co-development or co-production of digital content that:
 - is either a game, a web series, multiplatform content, augmented reality or virtual reality project;
 - explores a multi-channel or transmedia approach to content production or is innovative or experimental;
 - is developed on an appropriate platform (or platforms) with regards to content and audiences; and
 - targets cultural markets (i.e., the storytelling has the potential to cross national boundaries and carries cultural content).
3. The project must involve at least one Berlin-Brandenburg production company (or “**Applicant**”) eligible under MBB’s criteria, and one Canadian production company (or “**Applicant**”) eligible under the CMF’s criteria⁴.

¹Repayable advance is defined in Schedule A to this document.

²Loan is defined in Schedule A to this document.

³Recoupable investment is defined in Schedule A to this document.

⁴Beginning in 2023-2024, if an Applicant’s project is selected for funding in this Program, individuals from the Canadian production company attached to the project must complete the CMF’s Self-Identification System (“Persona ID”) process before any funding is released. For more information, please refer to the [CMF PERSONA-ID webpage](#). Further, if an Applicant’s project is selected for funding in this Program, the Canadian Applicant will be required to submit a Narrative Positioning Attestation, in adherence with the [CMF’s Narrative Positioning Policy](#).

4. While the ownership, financial control and creative contributions (based on key creative positions) are to be determined in the co-development or co-production agreement (as applicable) between Applicants, the CMF and MBB encourage that these elements be proportional to each Party's funding contributions. Therefore, even though the minimum allowable share between the Canadian and Berlin-Brandenburg Applicants must be at least 80%-20%, the Incentive encourages projects with a 50%-50% split. However, a project co-produced with the collaboration of a co-producer from a third country is also eligible as long as the Canadian and Berlin-Brandenburg Applicants have a significant participation, creatively and financially, in the project (i.e. in no case, the third country share should exceed 30% of the ownership and control of the project).
5. Each Applicant will ensure the project complies with general funding criteria from the funding entity of their respective country (i.e., eligibility, business policies, insurance requirements for production stage Projects). As such, Canadian Applicants must meet the requirements set out in Section 3.1 of the CMF 2024-2025 IDM Core Guidelines. In addition, all Applicants to the Incentive must meet the requirements set out in section 1 of the CMF's 2024-2025 IDM Core Guidelines with the qualification that any reference to "the CMF" shall be interpreted to include both the CMF and MBB. German Applicants must meet the requirements of the MBB funding guidelines.

The Incentive does not want to unduly limit the types of content that can apply. However, the following types of projects in particular are ineligible for funding:

- Projects with a focus that is corporate, industrial or mainly promotional in nature
- Catalogues or compilations of repurposed material, presented without any new, value-added original content
- System software
- Development of new platforms if those platforms are not integrated in a Transmedia storytelling architecture
- Archival aggregator websites
- Casino-type games
- Curriculum-based Projects
- Partial or split Projects that cannot be independently exploited or distributed
- Linear audio projects or audio projects without visuals or a high degree of immersion or interactivity (e.g. podcasts)

Selection Process and Criteria

Projects will be assessed and chosen by a selection committee composed of CMF and MBB representatives.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following grid. However, an overall reciprocity approach will be adopted by the Incentive's selection committee to ensure a fair balance between territorial investments in both Canada and Berlin-Brandenburg, and to ensure a fair balance between majority and minority projects between both countries.

Evaluation Grid

25% - Innovation and creativity

- Overall appeal of the project
- Originality of the content and form
- Development and use of new technologies
- User interactivity and control
- Sophistication of features
- Potential for legacy to the Canada and Berlin-Brandenburg industries

25% - Community / Audience

- Blending of Berlin-Brandenburg and Canada's cultural or community concepts in a way that engages audiences from both territories and beyond.
- Encourages interaction or develops a community around a concept
- Meets an identified need for a specified target audience or community
- Addresses or encompasses social or cultural values relevant to the target audience
- Appropriate concept for the identified audience
- Strategy to reach the audience, including a marketing and promotion plan

20% - Realism of the estimated budget

- Viability of the project: budget plan, risk assessment, involvement of other financial partners, including any interest from market channel partners (advances, pre-sales, licences, etc.)
- Distinctiveness of the business model: revenue models and potential for revenue generation and/or creative financing.

10% - Realism of the agenda/timeline of the project

20% - Team

- Experience and achievements of the studio(s) or digital media agencies involved
- Experience and achievements of key team members and partners
- Identification of process for working together

Key Dates

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|--|-------------------|
| • Publication of the Incentive Guidelines and request for projects | April 16, 2024 |
| • Application deadline | June 18, 2024 |
| • Selection Committee evaluation | End of July 2024 |
| • Announcement of decisions | Early August 2024 |

The Incentive team will facilitate introductions between production companies and digital media agencies, or territorial service providers located in both Canada and Berlin-Brandenburg.

Application – Important Information and Required Documentation

- Applications must be submitted according to the deadlines published above and on the Parties' websites and in accordance with the stipulations noted in the application form.
- Each coproducer will be responsible to submit the complete application to the authority (CMF or MBB) of its own country. The same set of documents must be submitted by each coproducer and the application form must be signed by all coproducers.
 - Canadian production companies should submit the complete application through <https://telefilm.ca/en/log-in>.
The application should be submitted in English or in French.
 - Berlin-Brandenburg production companies get a web link to submit the application after a consultation.
The application should be submitted in German.

- The period of eligibility of costs will start on the date the application has been submitted and no funding will be applied to costs which occurred prior to the application submission date. Only the costs related to the acquisition of copyright is eligible retroactively for a period of 12 months preceding the date of the submission.
- Applications must include the following **Administrative** information:
 - A list of the projects produced by the Berlin-Brandenburg production company
 - A list of the projects produced by the Canadian production company
 - The deal memo or the co-development or co-production agreement
 - Contracts proving the acquisition of necessary rights (e.g. option contract, script writer's contract etc.)
 - Calendar on project stages
 - Budget
 - Financing plan
 - Business model or potential for revenue generation
 - For the Canadian production company:
 - Complete incorporation documents
 - Signed and dated CMF Declaration of the Corporation's Canadian Status, and its Shareholders and Directors
- Applications must include the following **Creative** information:
 - CV of creative and production teams (screenwriters, directors, producers – or equivalent positions in digital media)
 - Brief project summary
 - Description of the project and its main features (technology, architecture, navigation, interface, graphic design, creative elements, user experience, functionalities, etc.).
 - Support material (prototype, screenshots, videos, mock-ups, diagrams, tables, etc.)

The Parties reserve the right to require other documentation from applicants for the completion of the assessment of the project.

There will be no obligations for the CMF and MBB to support any of the projects submitted if the standards and objectives of the CMF and MBB are not met.

Contacts for the Incentive:

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Please note: These Guidelines may be changed or modified as required, without notice. Please consult the CMF website at www.cmf-fmc.ca and the MBB website at www.medienboard.de for the latest Guideline news and documentation.

SCHEDULE A

DEFINITIONS

Repayable Advance

If the project receives development financial support through the Incentive and subsequently goes into production (i.e., is developed into a project capable of being commercialized) and the CMF:

- Does provide production funding to the project, the development costs will become part of the project's production costs, the CMF development advance will form part of the production financing, and as such the development advance will be converted into a recoupable investment in the production and treated as per section Recoupable Investment below.
- Does not provide production funding to the project, the Applicant shall have the option to either:
 - repay the entire development advance no later than the first day of the start of production of the project that will be commercialized; or
 - after a formal request by the Applicant and subsequent evaluation and confirmation by the CMF, allow the development advance to be converted into a recoupable investment in the production and treated as per section Recoupable Investment below.

Should project materials or intellectual property developed with the Incentive financial support be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of to an entity unrelated to the applicant(s), the entire CMF contribution must be repaid immediately upon the sale, transfer, or disposition.

Recoupable Investment

The CMF will recoup its investment from revenue generated by exploitation of the project.

In order to recoup its investment, the CMF will access 15% of all Gross Revenue generated by the exploitation of the Project. For clarity, "Gross Revenue" means any and all revenues generated by the exploitation of the Project *before* any commissions, fees, costs, or expenses of any type are deducted.

The CMF will recoup its investment from revenue generated by exploitation of the Project until the full amount of the CMF's investment is recouped or seven (7) years from the submission to the CMF of the Project's First Exploitation Report, whichever comes first.

Once the CMF has recouped 100% of its investment, the CMF will participate in profits in the same manner in which it recouped its investment.

As with the recoupment of its investment in the Project, the CMF will participate in profits for no longer than (7) seven years from the submission to the CMF of the Project's First Exploitation Report.

Loan

The MBB-funding takes the form of a performance-based repayable interest-free loan. The MBB recoups the loan according to the funding guidelines on the MBB's website.

Specifically:

The loan is to be repaid using all proceeds generated by the supported project (e.g. through market launch, sale of the prototype, or white-label business model). Proceeds encompass all income, except those used to finance the project according to the financing plan.

After the priority repayment of the accepted own contribution, 50% of the proceeds are to be allocated for loan repayment.

The repayment obligation typically ends five years after the start of exploitation.

RECOUPMENT POLICY

For project revenue earned in Canada, the CMF's recoupment terms and policies shall apply.

For project revenue earned throughout the rest of the world, MBB's recoupment terms and policies shall apply.