Where Next Happens

Status Update on OAGO Recommendations

Ontario Centre of Innovation

March 2022

OAGO Recommendation No.	OAGO Recommendation	OCI Proposed Actions	Implementation Date	Status
4	Update the existing process for the allocation of funds that includes a consistent salary allocation and compensation limits for all employees at SME who receive government funds	Improvements are being made to the initial project budget allocation of expenses to ensure there are no opportunity costs associated with allocating an SME a budget that will ultimately not be paid in the future.	July 2022	Underway
4	Establish consistent criteria for the allocation of program funds between different expense categories	OCI is undertaking a review of its processes, including a cost-benefit analysis to ensure that the benefits of implementing a robust upfront review outweigh the cost of implementation.	July 2022	Underway
4	Extend the procurement guidelines to SMEs that are using Ontario funds to procure equipment	OCI will reinforce the procurement guidelines to program participants to procure equipment competitively.	July 2022	Underway

Note: Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 from the OAGO report are not included as they are directed at the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and/or the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade and not OCI.

OAGO Recommendation No.	OAGO Recommendation	OCI Proposed Actions	Implementation Date	Status
4	Establish a comprehensive verification process to ensure only eligible SMEs enrolled in the program and are allocating funds towards eligible project costs only	OCI will review its verification process to ensure only eligible SMEs are enrolled in the program and funds are allocated to eligible project costs only.	July 2022	Underway
4	Implement and enforce a conflict-of-interest policy so that OCI is able to effectively oversee and monitor compliance and perceived conflicts and obtain declarations of independence where applicable	OCI will undertake a review of its conflict-of-interest policy for reviewers to ensure the policy covers both direct and perceived conflicts of interest. OCI will review its process to ensure there is clear attention from all relevant parties that there is no conflict of interest.	July 2022	Underway

OAGO Recommendation No.	OAGO Recommendation	OCI Proposed Actions	Implementation Date	Status
5	Establish and quantify the requirement to utilize the test platform by SMEs	For the existing program, which will end in March 2022: OCI will perform an analysis to establish and quantify requirements to utilize the test platform for existing SMEs.	June 2022	Underway
5	Implement a periodic monitoring process to identify SMEs with low usage and encourage them to utilize the ENCQOR 5G test platform.	If the program is fully extended*, OCI will implement usage monitoring going forward.	Post March 2022, if the program is fully extended*	
6	Update the existing Transfer Payment Agreement to clearly establish requirements to utilize the test platform across all program streams.	If the program is fully extended*, OCI will work with the Ministry to ensure there are clear requirements in the TPA for each program stream to use the test platform, if required by program design.	Post March 2022, if the program is fully extended*	Underway
7	Accept and enrol ENCQOR 5G Program applicants from a diverse range of industry sectors especially from those sectors not well represented in the current pool of participants.	If the program is fully extended*, a sector strategy, including setting priority sectors and/or specifying sector representation, will be considered.	Post March 2022, if the program is fully extended*	Underway

Note: Recommendation 8 from the OAGO report is not included as it is directed at the technology vendors and not OCI.
*indicates full renewal of the contract not including the bridge phase.

OAGO Recommendation No.	OAGO Recommendation	OCI Proposed Actions	Implementation Date	Status
9	The agreements with OCI's IT vendors be amended to incorporate the requirement to perform penetration testing of OCI's IT systems according to industry best practices.	OCI, on a cost-benefit basis, will embark on a review of the existing IT infrastructure and ensure that it meets best practices where applicable and justifiable. OCI will amend the agreement with IT vendors to incorporate requirements to perform penetration testing of OCI's IT systems.	April 2022	Underway
10	Review performance metrics such as incident resolution time within the service level agreements for OCI's IT vendors	OCI will lay greater emphasis on the review and documentation of vendors performance, including a review of performance metrics in the service level agreement.	October 2022	Underway
10	Have adequate oversight over the procurement process that impacts critical business operations such as outsourcing of the IT function by obtaining approvals from the relevant stakeholders such as OCI's Board of Directors	During the audit, OCI modified and updated the procurement policy. Our Board of Directors has reviewed and approved our revised policy.		
10	Amend existing contracts with OCI's IT vendors to include a "right to audit" and penalty clauses, and periodically review the performance metrics established in the Service Level Agreement	OCI, on renewal of existing IT provider agreements, will implement a "right to audit" and penalty clause.		
10	Establish a process to obtain and review external audit reports to identify IT security risks, and to confirm that corrective action has been taken	OCI will implement a policy to review audit reports of our IT vendors and take corrective action as needed to safeguard our IT systems.		