

TACs Interactive Visits

Interactive Visits

The Interactive Visit program provides NRC-IRAP-eligible firms with up to 20 hours of access to the equipment, facilities, and expertise of a Technology Access Centre (TAC) in Ontario to solve an innovation challenge identified by the firm.

Technology Access Centres

TACs are specialized applied research & development centres affiliated with publicly-funded colleges. TACs help innovative Canadian firms get their products, processes and services market-ready by:

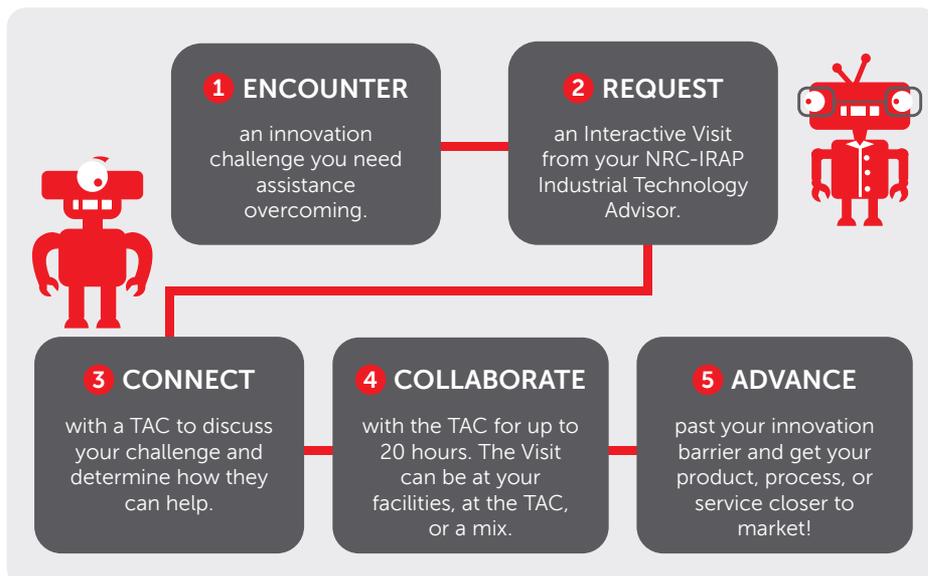
- conducting applied research and development projects focused on company problems;
- offering specialized technical services and objective advice; and
- providing training related to new types of equipment and processes.

The Goal

The goal of an Interactive Visit is to provide an initial collaborative engagement between a firm and a TAC to overcome a barrier. Some potential Interactive Visits:

- Providing a firm with access to cutting-edge technology they do not have in-house;
- assessment of new technologies that may be utilized by a firm to improve productivity;
- guidance on the selection of specialized technical equipment;
- assessment of facilities ahead of regulatory inspections;
- technology implementation assistance to drive innovation;
- sharing strategic information and advice;
- helping firms understand other sources of funding to take their project to the next step.

The Process:



In Sarnia, the **Bluewater Technology Access Centre** assessed the potential performance of corrosion inhibitors/protectants for a manufacturing firm.

In Ottawa, the **Bio-innovation Technology Access Centre** assisted a health product producer with an action plan for the development of an energizing cream.

In Lindsay, the **Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment** aided a mining service firm in the development of a unique underground weir for collecting and filtering mine water into a closed system so that the mine can reuse the water.

In Niagara-on-the-lake, the **Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre** assisted a brewery to determine possible causes of yeast haze in their conical fermenters post fermentation.

In Toronto, the **Food Innovation Research Studio** aided a food producer to identify and quantify the target market for a new and innovative pain relieving drink.

In Hamilton, the **MEDIC Technology Access Centre** for Digital Health helped a health technology firm integrate with key Electronic Medical Records for their referral service solution.

In Welland, the **Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre** scanned the interior and exterior of a boat prototype in 3D for a marina.

In Toronto, the **Screen Industries Research and Training Centre** assisted a virtual reality firm with real-time capture of multiple characters with the ability to produce a virtual reality experience in 360 degrees.

In Scarborough, the **Wearable, Interactive and Mobile Technologies Access Centre** in Healthcare helped a safety equipment manufacturer create a wearable product capable of supporting integrated advanced components.

MEET THE TACS

Tech-Access  Canada

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Don't have an NRC-IRAP Industrial Technology Advisor?

The National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) is a federal government program designed to provide innovation support and funding to accelerate the growth of small Canadian businesses.

The Interactive Visits program is open to all NRC-IRAP-eligible Canadian firms:

- a small or medium-sized enterprise in Canada, incorporated and profit-oriented;
- 500 or fewer full-time equivalent employees; and
- the objective to grow and generate profits through development and commercialization of innovative, technology-driven new or improved products, services, or processes in Canada.

If your firm would like to participate, and you don't have an ITA, the first step is calling NRC-IRAP at **1-877-994-4727** to chat about your firm, your goals, and your eligibility to participate. If approved, you'll be assigned an ITA to work with.

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