MINE CONNECT
Suppliers of Choice to the World.

Request for Proposals

Ontario Mining Supply and Services Sector Study

Issued by MineConnect Supply and Services Association

MineConnect invites qualified firms to study Ontario's mining supply and services (MSS) sector. The study will establish a credible baseline, map capabilities and inform industry development, advocacy, partnerships and market diversification.

Procurement milestone	Deadline or timing
RFP issue date	October 27, 2026
Signed intent to bid	November 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Questions from proponents	November 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Consolidated answers and addenda	Target November 10, 2026
Proposal submission	November 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Anticipated selection and start	December 2026, subject to contract
Study launch presentation	MineConnect AGM, February 4, 2027 - Sudbury

RFP contact and submission address

Marla Tremblay, Ec.D., Executive Director, MineConnect Email: tremblay@mineconnect.com

Email the signed intent to bid, questions and proposal using "MSS Study RFP", the submission type and proponent name in the subject line. Deadlines are based on receipt by MineConnect.

1 Background and purpose

MineConnect represents Ontario's mining suppliers and supporting organizations; mining operators are not members. The MSS sector spans diverse business sizes, specialties and locations, including companies serving other industries.

Part of the Ontario MSS Supply Chain Study and Export Growth Program, this study must cover members and non-members and clearly state the limits of available evidence.

Supplier definition and study boundaries

For this study, a mining supplier is a business with Ontario-based operations that provides products or services supporting the mining industry, directly or indirectly, during one or more of the following five phases:

1. Exploration and resource evaluation
2. Project planning, design and permitting
3. Mine development and construction
4. Operations and production
5. Closure, reclamation and post-closure monitoring

Include direct and indirect supply to mining companies, developers, contractors and other supply-chain businesses. Examples include equipment, components, consumables, technology, engineering, construction, maintenance, environmental services, transportation and logistics, workforce services, accommodation and professional services. Transportation includes people, equipment, supplies and mined or processed materials.

Include diversified businesses, separating mining-related activity from other activity. Study eligibility is separate from MineConnect membership eligibility.

Develop screening questions for MineConnect approval. Capture all applicable phases and sub-sectors without double-counting businesses.

2 Study objectives

- Establish a baseline of Ontario MSS businesses, their geographic distribution, sub-sectors, size and capabilities.
- Measure employment and direct economic contribution, including mining-related revenue, payroll, purchasing, investment, exports and Ontario GDP or value added.
- Identify supply chain gaps, key capabilities, procurement trends, diversification opportunities and opportunities for joint ventures and partnerships, including Indigenous partnerships.
- Provide clear findings, accessible dashboards and reusable data that MineConnect can draw on for planning, advocacy and future comparisons.

3 Scope of work

3.1 Study design and participation targets

Review existing research and MineConnect information. Apply the supplier definition and five phases above; obtain approval for screening rules, geographic groupings and sub-sector taxonomy. Include members, non-members and supporting suppliers. Explain how diversified businesses, locations, subsidiaries and corporate groups will be counted without duplication.

Distinguish the estimated business population, outreach pool and required completed responses. Propose regional and sub-sector targets, considering company size, Indigenous ownership or partnerships and useful intersections without unrealistic quotas or disclosure risks.

Provide a target matrix showing population sources and quality, rationale, expected response rates and recruitment effort. Explain supported comparisons, coverage across the five mining phases and supporting services, and contingencies for gaps. Claim representativeness, confidence levels or margins of error only where the sampling design supports them.

3.2 Questionnaire design and testing

Design a concise questionnaire with consistent terms, units, reference periods and reporting entities. Distinguish Ontario from company-wide activity, mining from other revenue, and headcount from full-time equivalents. Capture direct and indirect supply, all applicable mining phases and diversified businesses.

Use clear instructions, response ranges, skip logic and validation. Distinguish zero, not applicable, unknown and declined responses. Avoid leading or double-barrelled questions and recommend ways to collect sensitive information without discouraging participation.

Develop a pilot protocol; MineConnect will recruit a varied group and gather feedback. Assess clarity and consistency, revise the questionnaire and submit a testing summary for approval before launch. Include English delivery in the base fee; price French translation, programming and testing separately.

3.3 Survey platform and support for MineConnect data collection

Recommend and configure an independently available survey platform that MineConnect can license and administer directly, using an existing account such as SurveyMonkey where suitable. The platform must not be proprietary to the consultant or require its ongoing services. Obtain approval before any platform or licence commitment.

- Give MineConnect administrator access and control of the survey and responses. Transfer the questionnaire, logic, configuration and documentation for independent reuse. Allow complete Excel and CSV exports without consultant involvement or proprietary conversion tools; disclose any limits on survey migration.
- Describe accessibility, mobile use, save-and-return, duplicate controls, hosting, permissions, security and limitations. Disclose all licence, hosting, export and ongoing costs, including any costs after handover.
- Provide invitation, reminder and completion templates and a practical participation plan. Monitor coverage against targets and advise on gaps, follow-up and data-quality queries for MineConnect to resolve.

MineConnect will conduct all recruitment, distribution, data collection and respondent follow-up, including interviews and consultations, and provide data or platform access. The consultant will design and configure the study, set targets, test the questionnaire, provide technical guidance, review data quality, analyze results, report and present findings. Specify MineConnect inputs, decision points and workload; exclude collection work from consultant fees.

3.4 Analysis and validation

Clean, code and validate data; document missing responses, duplicates, outliers and exclusions. Compare participation with targets, assess non-response and self-selection risks, and explain weighting or extrapolation. Separate observed results, estimates and qualitative findings.

Analyze capabilities, employment, markets, exports, supply-chain gaps, procurement challenges, diversification and partnerships. Provide regional, sub-sector, size and mining-phase comparisons where supported, identifying overlapping categories. Include the mandatory direct economic contribution analysis below in the base fee.

Validate findings with MineConnect using its data and stakeholder feedback. Recommend further validation questions, explain conflicting evidence and limitations, and avoid attributing growth or contracts to MineConnect without evidence.

Direct economic contribution

Quantify mining-related business activity and value generated in Ontario. This analysis is mandatory and included in the fixed base fee.

Design questions and analyze MineConnect-collected data on annual mining-related revenue; Ontario payroll and employer-paid benefits; purchases from Ontario, elsewhere in Canada and abroad; Ontario capital investment; and sales by customer geography. Capture export values and destinations where feasible. Separate Ontario activity from company-wide totals and mining from other sectors.

Use Canadian dollars, consistent definitions and a common completed financial year or clear reference period. Address fiscal-year differences, confidential response ranges and inability to isolate mining activity. Distinguish customer location from end-use location where relevant. Pilot financial questions for clarity and feasibility.

Separate respondent totals from sector estimates and provide supported regional, sub-sector and phase breakdowns. Document extrapolation, coverage, uncertainty and sensitivity. Do not add revenue, payroll, purchases and investment as separate components of total impact.

Estimate direct Ontario GDP or value added using defensible methods and credible sources. Address intermediate purchases and supplier-to-supplier transactions to avoid double-counting. Distinguish sales from value added and direct contribution from indirect and induced effects.

Describe and price direct contribution methods within the base fee. Broader input-output modelling and tax-revenue estimates may be separately priced options. Identify models, data needs, assumptions and limits; distinguish modelled tax revenue from reported taxes.

Include financial findings in the summary, report, dashboards and outcomes presentation. Supply the calculation workbook, sources, assumptions and reuse instructions. Apply approved aggregation and disclosure controls.

3.5 Reporting and dashboards

Deliver an executive summary and report covering methodology, participation, findings, limitations and prioritized recommendations, with supported comparisons, capability mapping and reusable charts.

Provide editable dashboards with agreed filters and confidentiality controls in a practical format such as Excel or Power BI. Disclose licences, refresh requirements and recurring costs. Ensure independent use after the contract, with staff orientation and instructions for updates, exports and interpretation.

3.6 Presentations and project management

Present in person at the February 2027 AGM to introduce the study and encourage participation, and at the following AGM, anticipated February 2028. Dates and locations are to be confirmed. If validation continues after the second AGM, present available validated findings, identify outstanding work and provide final presentation materials with the completed study.

Include both AGM presentations, preparation, travel and accommodation in the base fee, stating location assumptions. Include kickoff, monthly updates, milestone reviews and two consolidated revision rounds for the draft report and dashboards. Flag schedule, participation and cost risks promptly.

4 Deliverables and schedule

Align the workplan with the funding schedule: collection through June 2027; analysis July–September 2027; validation and final reporting through March 2028; and knowledge transfer April–May 2028. Explain how AGM presentations fit and identify required adjustments.

Deliverable	Required content and timing
Inception package	Workplan, definitions, target matrix, methodology, guidance for MineConnect-led collection, risk register and responsibilities; within four weeks of award.
Survey package	Tested questionnaire, coding framework, approved platform, respondent materials and launch-ready survey; schedule to support the February 2027 AGM launch.
Collection updates	Monthly coverage review of MineConnect-collected responses against targets, with advice on gaps and corrective actions; MineConnect collection targeted to June 2027.
Preliminary findings	Cleaned preliminary dataset, analytical findings and opportunity assessment; by September 30, 2027.
Draft report and dashboards	In time for review and the anticipated February 2028 AGM outcomes presentation; specify review dates.

Deliverable	Required content and timing
Final study and handover	Final report, dashboards, data, documentation and presentation files; no later than March 31, 2028.
Knowledge transfer	Staff orientation and agreed dissemination support by May 31, 2028; define included support.

Supply editable Word and accessible PDF reports, PowerPoint slides, cleaned Excel and CSV data, and editable dashboard sources or a MineConnect-controlled workspace. Include the questionnaire, codebook, data dictionary, calculation methods and response-disposition log. Transfer raw responses securely and separately from public outputs.

5 Proposal submission requirements

Submit one searchable PDF with a main response of no more than eight (8) pages, including pricing. Résumés, work samples and required forms are excluded. Follow the headings below, use concise responses and omit lengthy corporate background or generic promotional material.

- Firm and team: legal name, address, lead contact, proposed personnel and roles, relevant qualifications, availability, subcontractors and two relevant client references.
- Relevant experience: comparable sector studies, survey design and sampling work, Ontario MSS knowledge, and examples of reports and dashboards. Explain each team member's contribution to cited projects.
- Approach: study boundaries, preliminary target framework, questionnaire testing, platform, guidance for MineConnect-led collection, analysis, confidentiality controls and handling of insufficient responses. Final numeric targets will be agreed after inception.
- Workplan: tasks, milestones, staffing effort, review periods, presentations, risks and specific responsibilities and estimated time required from MineConnect.
- Pricing: fixed fee in Canadian dollars excluding HST, by phase and deliverable. Identify HST, travel, licences, hosting, expenses and caps, assumptions and included technical support and data review. Price all mandatory consultant deliverables; exclude MineConnect-led recruitment, distribution, collection and respondent follow-up.
- Options: separately price French delivery, indirect and induced impact modelling, and ongoing dashboard support. State recurring costs. Options are excluded from the evaluated base price.
- Declarations: signed proposal authorization, conflict-of-interest disclosure, proposed exceptions to this RFP, acknowledgement of all addenda and confirmation that pricing remains valid for 90 days after closing.

6 Evaluation and selection

6.1 Mandatory screening

Eligibility requires a signed intent with contact details by November 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time and a signed proposal with complete base pricing by November 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, acknowledgement of addenda, and commitment to the deliverables and schedule or clearly identified exceptions. MineConnect may clarify minor administrative omissions but will not accept late intents or proposals.

6.2 Scored evaluation

The committee will score compliant proposals out of 100. At least 56 of 80 technical points are required for price scoring. The highest combined score will normally proceed to contract discussions, subject to references and agreed terms.

Proposals must demonstrate an understanding of the study's purpose and explain how the proposed approach will achieve its objectives. Simply restating the RFP requirements will not be considered a sufficient response.

Evaluation criterion	Points	What will be assessed
Understanding and proposed methodology	25	Understanding of the study's purpose and intended use; a practical research approach; rationale for regional and sub-sector participation targets; member and non-member coverage; and plans to address low participation or bias.
Questionnaire and data quality	15	Proposed approach to developing and testing a concise survey that produces reliable, comparable information while limiting respondent effort; clear definitions; and treatment of incomplete or sensitive responses.
Analysis, reporting and dashboards	15	Proposed methods for measuring direct economic contribution and turning findings into useful recommendations; clear explanation of limitations; and accessible reports and dashboards MineConnect can independently use and update.
Team and relevant experience	15	Relevant sector research, survey and analytical experience; quality of previous work; understanding of Ontario's MSS sector; and the proposed team's roles and capacity.
Workplan and project delivery	10	A clear, realistic plan showing tasks, timelines, responsibilities and required MineConnect inputs; support for MineConnect-led data collection; AGM presentations; and staff training and handover.
Price and overall cost	20	Total base cost for all mandatory deliverables, travel, expenses and necessary licences through handover, excluding HST and optional services; clarity of assumptions and ongoing costs.
Total	100	80 technical points plus 20 price points.

MineConnect will score compliant proposals out of 100. Proposals must earn at least **56 of 80 technical points** to qualify for price scoring.

Technical criteria are rated 0–5 and weighted proportionately: **0** not addressed; **1** major weaknesses; **2** partly meets; **3** meets; **4** strong response; **5** exceptional, supported by convincing evidence.

Price score = (lowest technically qualified base cost ÷ proponent's base cost) × 20. Base cost includes all mandatory deliverables and expenses, excluding HST and options.

Clarifications must not materially change proposals. References and interviews verify submissions without additional points. The highest combined score will normally proceed to contract discussions, subject to satisfactory references and agreed terms. Ties favour the higher **Understanding and proposed methodology** score, then the higher total technical score.

7 Questions, intent to bid, and addenda

Email Appendix A and questions by November 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Intent to bid is mandatory for eligibility and communications but does not commit a firm to submit a proposal.

MineConnect will share anonymized answers with all registered proponents, targeting November 10, 2026. Do not include confidential commercial information in questions. Subsequent changes will be issued by written addendum, with reasonable deadline extensions for material changes where needed.

Only written addenda from the designated contact amend this RFP; acknowledge them in proposals. Direct procurement questions to that contact, not directors, other staff or prospective respondents.

8 Working arrangements and contract terms

- Approvals and payment: MineConnect approves the methodology, targets, questionnaire, platform and final outputs. Propose milestone payments tied to accepted deliverables. Any change to scope, fees, or schedule requires prior written approval.
- Ownership and reuse: MineConnect owns project data, questionnaires, reports, dashboard configurations and project-specific deliverables. Identify pre-existing and third-party components and disclose restrictions before award. Provide ongoing rights and files sufficient for independent use, editing and maintenance. No consultant-controlled survey platform or continued consultant service may be required.
- Confidentiality and security: collect only necessary information and supply an approved respondent notice covering purpose, access and use. Restrict access to company-level data; document hosting, retention, deletion, backups and incident notification. Do not reuse identifiable data or disclose it without authorization.
- Publication: use aggregated findings and agreed small-cell suppression. Ensure filters and combined outputs cannot reveal responses. Obtain approval before publication or naming participants; keep confidential source data separate.
- Subcontractors and conflicts: disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts and proposed mitigation. Identify all subcontractors and obtain approval for changes to key personnel. The lead consultant remains responsible for their work.
- Recordkeeping: retain supporting records for the period specified in the final contract and support reasonable project and funder verification requests, subject to approved confidentiality arrangements.
- Procurement conditions: MineConnect may amend or cancel the RFP, reject proposals, verify information and negotiate with the preferred or next-ranked proponent. Lowest price does not guarantee selection. Proponents bear preparation costs. Work requires a signed contract.

Appendix A: Signed intent to bid

Ontario Mining Supply and Services Sector Study
Return by November 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time to [Insert designated RFP email address].

Legal name of organization: _____

Operating name if different: _____

Mailing address: _____

Primary contact name and title: _____

Primary contact email: _____

Primary contact telephone: _____

Alternate contact name and email if applicable: _____

The undersigned registers intent to consider a proposal and requests all answers and addenda at the email above. We understand this form is mandatory for eligibility but does not commit us to bid. We are responsible for accurate contact details and monitoring communications.

Authorized representative

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Electronic signatures and signed scanned copies are accepted. MineConnect will acknowledge receipt. If acknowledgement is not received within two business days, contact the designated RFP contact before the applicable deadline.