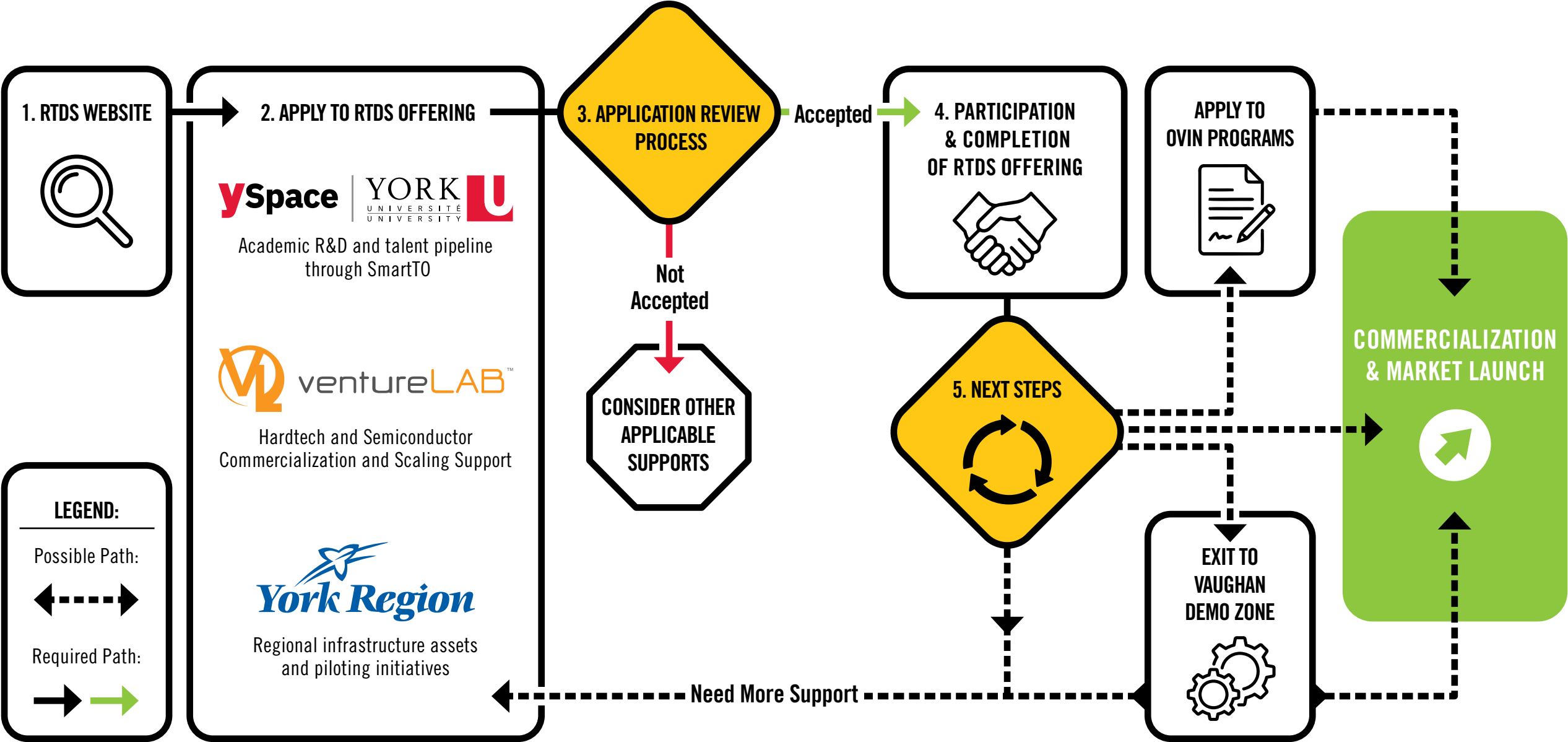


YORK REGION RTDS PARTICIPANT JOURNEY PROCESS



YORK REGION RTDS & VAUGHAN DEMO ZONE OFFERINGS SUMMARY



Talent Integration Stream – Capstone Projects

Embeds engineering talent into startup-led innovation and applied R&D projects.

September–April (8 months) annually over the project lifetime

Applied Technical Projects (ATP)

Matches startups with faculty, students, labs, prototyping, and living-lab testing support.

ATP Project: 3 months each, project based

Living Lab Projects: 1–6 months

Specialized Facilities Access: Ongoing basis over project lifetime

Venture Mobility Catalyst (VMC)

Pre-accelerator helping entrepreneurs and researchers commercialize mobility innovations.

6-week annual cohort, with rolling partner support and flexible office access during or post-program, spring or fall 2026 session anticipated

Ecosystem Activation & Community Builder Series

Builds collaboration through events, networking, and ecosystem development activities.

Year-round programming, with quarterly flagship events and educational workshops

Innovation Challenge Program

Connects public and private challenge owners with startups and researchers to solve priority problems.

4–6 months per challenge; one challenge per year, four total throughout the project lifetime

Smart Mobility Technology Accelerator (SMTA)

Accelerates mobility startups through commercialization, market validation, and investor readiness.

4-month annual cohort, with rolling partner support and flexible office access during or post-program



Hardware Catalyst Initiative (HCI)

Supports automotive semiconductor commercialization with advanced infrastructure and expert advisory.

12–24 months (subject to program cohort timelines)

Automobility – SME Innovation Acceleration

Helps automotive SMEs modernize operations and commercialize innovative products.

6–12 months (per company)

HardTech for Automotive Stream

Advances TRL 5–8 automotive technologies through testing, pilots, and commercialization support.

9–24 months (timelines subject to individual company support)



Access to the YorkNet Dark Optical Fibre Network

Provides secure, high-bandwidth connectivity for mobility pilots and data-intensive applications.

Ongoing through March 2029

Asset Acquisitions and Retrofits

Provides access to Regional fleets, facilities, and data for technology testing and validation.

Ongoing through March 2029

Hosting Pilot Initiatives

Offers a living-lab environment for real-world testing of mobility and climate solutions.

Ongoing through March 2029



City of Vaughan: Demonstration Stream

A City-supported program that enables innovators to test, refine, and showcase transportation solutions in real-world municipal environments.

Ongoing through March 2029

York Region (Including Greater Toronto Area): Demonstration Stream

Offers companies a real-world environment to test, validate, and advance innovative mobility solutions across participating GTA municipalities.

Ongoing through March 2029

Signature Project: Demonstration Stream

The Signature Project Demonstration Stream will aim to demonstrate larger, more complex signature projects, such as CAV, digital twin, and connected infrastructure.

Ongoing through March 2029

Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

Phase 1 (TRL 1 - 3): Research Ideation & Feasibility



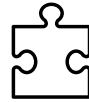
TRL 1

Basic Principles
Observed



TRL 2

Concept/application
formulated



TRL 3

Proof of Concept



Phase 2 (TRL 4 - 6): Prototyping, Validation & Lab Testing



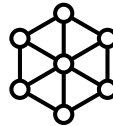
TRL 4

Lab Prototype



TRL 5

Lab Validation



TRL 6

System Prototype



Phase 3 (TRL 7 - 9): Field Testing, Demonstration & Commercialization



TRL 7

System Demo



TRL 8

System Qualified



TRL 9

Market Launch



York Region Offerings List

Talent Integration Stream – Capstone Projects **(TRL 1-4)**

Applied Technical Projects **(TRL 1-5)**

Venture Mobility Catalyst **(TRL 1-5)**

Ecosystem Activation & Community Builder Series **(TRL 1-7)**

Innovation Challenge Program **(TRL 3-7)**

Smart Mobility Technology Accelerator **(TRL 5-8)**

Hardware Catalyst Initiative – Automotive Semiconductor Commercialization Stream **(TRL 3-7)**

Automobility – SME Innovation Acceleration **(TRL 5-7)**

HardTech for Automotive Stream **(TRL 5-8)**

Access to the YorkNet dark optical fibre network **(TRL 6-8)**

Asset Acquisitions and Retrofits **(TRL 6-8)**

Hosting Pilot Initiatives **(TRL 6-8)**

Vaughan Demonstration Zone **(TRL 7-9)**

Offerings:

● York University - YSpace SmartT0

● ventureLAB

● York Region

● Vaughan Demonstration Zone