



vineland
RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE

Robotic High-Wire Cucumber Harvester

Request for Expressions of Interest

January 2, 2019

**Prepared by
Vineland Research and Innovation Centre**



About Us

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (Vineland) is an independent, not-for-profit organization, funded in part by the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership*. With a highly-skilled research team, oversight from an independent Board of Directors, engagement from an international Science Advisory Council and collaboration with 86 global partners including a Stakeholder Advisory Council, Vineland's goal is to enhance Canadian growers' commercial success through results-oriented innovation.

The Opportunity

Vineland's Robotics & Automation team is currently in the preliminary phase of developing a robotic harvester for use in high-wire long English cucumber greenhouse production. The aim of this project will be to reduce manual harvesting costs and provide a platform for monitoring and improving crop yield.

It is crucial that Vineland develops a system with a thorough understanding of growers' operational environment, practices and expectations in a commercial greenhouse setting. Therefore, Vineland is seeking partner(s) to collaborate on the development, testing and implementation of a robotic harvester that will succeed in real-world conditions.



Details of the collaboration

In the first phase, Vineland will collect data at a partner's location on all aspects of the production cycle, greenhouse climate and quality parameters required to market English cucumbers. This information will assist Vineland in determining the robotic harvester's configuration and build a solid understanding of performance targets to ensure a commercially viable solution. In the second phase, a robotic harvesting prototype will be brought to the partner's facility to assess its performance in a real-world setting over the course of the production cycle.

Benefits to the partner

If you choose to collaborate with us, you will have the opportunity to see first-hand how the novel robotic technology can be integrated into your greenhouse and gain an advantageous perspective on how our system can reduce labour costs.

Please let us know no later than **March 15, 2019** of your expression of interest in collaborating with Vineland by contacting Brian Lynch at 905-562-0320 x683 or brian.lynch@vinelandresearch.com. After reviewing the list of potential partners, one or more will be selected for this collaboration.

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