



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
6/4/2025

Date: 2025-05-22

Subject: **Toronto Metropolitan University Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst Funding Agreement**

Contact: Tara Hunter, Interim Sector Manager, Innovation & Technology, Economic Development

Report number: CAO's Office-2025-436

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Tara Hunter, Interim Sector Manager, Innovation & Technology, Economic Development to the City Council Meeting of June 4, 2025 re: Toronto Metropolitan University Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst Funding Agreement, be received; and
2. That Council delegate authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to execute on behalf of the City of Brampton a second funding agreement with Toronto Metropolitan University for the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst in the amount of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year over a five (5) year term and to execute any amending agreements or addendums over the term, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Director of Economic Development and in a form approved by the City Solicitor or designate.

OVERVIEW:

- **Established in 2020, the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst (“RCC”), operated by Toronto Metropolitan University (“TMU”), is a founding partner of the Brampton Innovation District.**
- **RCC has established itself as an international centre for cybersecurity training, entrepreneurship, research, policy development and public education, headquartered in downtown Brampton.**
- **This report seeks delegated authority to enter into a second funding agreement with TMU to continue RCC headquarter operations in downtown Brampton, allocating up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year over a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2029, in support of the**

City of Brampton’s tech entrepreneur ecosystem and national leadership in cybersecurity.

- **The second funding agreement further develops the local cybersecurity ecosystem, reinforcing the Innovation District and enhancing Brampton’s economic resilience.**
- **RCC has secured additional third-party funding commitments spanning the second funding agreement term to support specific programming initiatives.**
- **There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.**

BACKGROUND:

The City of Brampton (“City”) is committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive business environment by supporting innovation, attracting investment and expanding economic opportunities for residents, including youth and newcomers. Through strategic partnerships and initiatives, the City works to create the conditions for business growth, job creation and a resilient, competitive economy.

The Brampton Innovation District has contributed to downtown Brampton’s revitalization by filling vacant spaces and driving increased activity. Designed as a hub for innovation and research, the Innovation District fosters collaboration among post-secondary institutions, start-ups and established businesses. This synergy promotes innovation, attracts top talent and strengthens the City’s reputation as a dynamic centre for growth and development.

Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst

The City of Brampton maintains a strong relationship with Toronto Metropolitan University (“TMU”) and has been working extensively with TMU to expand its presence in Brampton, for example, the upcoming opening of the new medical school.

Over the past five (5) years, TMU has designed, developed and operated the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst (“RCC”) as a national centre for cybersecurity training, entrepreneurship, research, policy development and public education. Headquartered in downtown Brampton, with over sixty-seven (67) full-time staff, part-time staff and contractors, RCC is an anchor tenant of the Innovation District.

During the first agreement term (2020-2024), RCC delivered a wide range of initiatives that strengthened Canada’s cybersecurity ecosystem.

Notable achievements include:

- Running the Catalyst Cyber Accelerator program, supporting 60 cybersecurity start-ups.
- Launching the Catalyst Cyber Range, a state-of-the-art simulation platform for experiential learning, through which over 50 organizations have received best-in-class cybersecurity training.
- Delivering the Accelerated Cybersecurity Training Program (ACTP) to more than 600 individuals.
- Offering Advanced Cyber Education (ACE) to 230 learners.
- Launching the RBC FinSec Incubator, supporting early-stage cyber and fintech companies.
- Introducing the Mastercard Emerging Leaders Cyber Initiative, designed for women and non-binary leaders, graduating 90 participants.
- Providing upskilling and reskilling training to over one thousand individuals.
- Hosting the annual Catalyst Summit, attracting 200+ attendees each year.

These efforts, among many others, underscore RCC's leadership in advancing cybersecurity talent, innovation and capacity in Brampton, and Canada.

CURRENT SITUATION:

As artificial intelligence becomes a key driver of economic transformation, safeguarding the integrity, security and resilience of digital infrastructure is a critical priority. Economic Development's Council-approved 2025 budget ([C023-2025](#)) allocates up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) over a five (5) year term for a second funding agreement with TMU to continue RCC operations in downtown Brampton.

The second funding agreement is focused on building Brampton's local cybersecurity ecosystem, strengthening the Innovation District and bolstering Brampton's economic resilience.

Under the agreement, RCC will adopt a hyper-local approach, implementing targeted activities to raise cybersecurity awareness and training in Brampton, while providing tailored support for Brampton-based businesses and community organizations. This strategy will foster the development of local cybersecurity talent, support the success of Brampton-based cybersecurity entrepreneurs and energize community initiatives related to cybersecurity.

The agreement also requires that, in the final fiscal period, a new ten (10) year lease agreement be secured for RCC headquarters in the Centre for Innovation ("CFI"), subject to the building's completion and availability.

The final annual payment is contingent upon this long-term commitment to maintaining RCC headquarters operations in downtown Brampton.

Currently, RCC operates out of two (2) downtown locations. Maximizing the utilization of leased space at 33 Queen Street is a priority for both TMU and RCC throughout the term of the second funding agreement.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report. The total five (5) year funding commitment of up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is included in the City of Brampton's 2025 budget and 2026-2029 financial forecast, with an annual allocation of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000), subject to the Mayor's consideration in future years. The first-year allocation has been approved as part of the 2025 budget and is available from the following source:

Project	Project Description	Available Funding
251206-001	Cybersecure Catalyst	\$1,000,000

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

This report aligns with the City of Brampton's Focus Area of Growing Urban Centres and Neighbourhoods and the Strategic Priority of "Stimulate Innovation, Create Jobs & Grow Investment" by strengthening partnerships with post-secondary institutions to foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development.

It also supports the Strategic Priority to "Invest in Strategic Growth Areas (Unlock Downtown and Strategic Growth Areas)" by advancing the Brampton Innovation District and positioning downtown Brampton as a hub for business growth and collaboration.

CONCLUSION:

This report recommends delegated authority to enter into a second funding agreement with TMU, providing up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year over a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2029, to support Brampton's growing tech entrepreneur ecosystem and build economic resilience.

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