

Abstract

This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks innovative solutions to improve the wedging process for Kalon Ceramics, a solo pottery studio based in Toronto. The current wedging method is labor-intensive, time-consuming, and physically demanding, making it difficult for our community to maintain efficiency while ensuring sustainability. Existing solutions, such as vacuum pugmills, are costly and impractical for a solo studio, necessitating an alternative approach.

This document outlines the opportunity for engineering teams to develop a compact, cost-effective, and ergonomic solution that enhances productivity while maintaining the quality of wedged clay. Through stakeholder analysis, design requirements, and reference designs, the RFP establishes a framework for feasible and impactful innovation. The proposed solution should reduce manual labor and time, improve the ergonomics of the process, and fit within the studio's space constraints without changing the quality of produced clay. By addressing these challenges, this initiative aims to ease the manual burden of sustainable practices within small potters' studios.