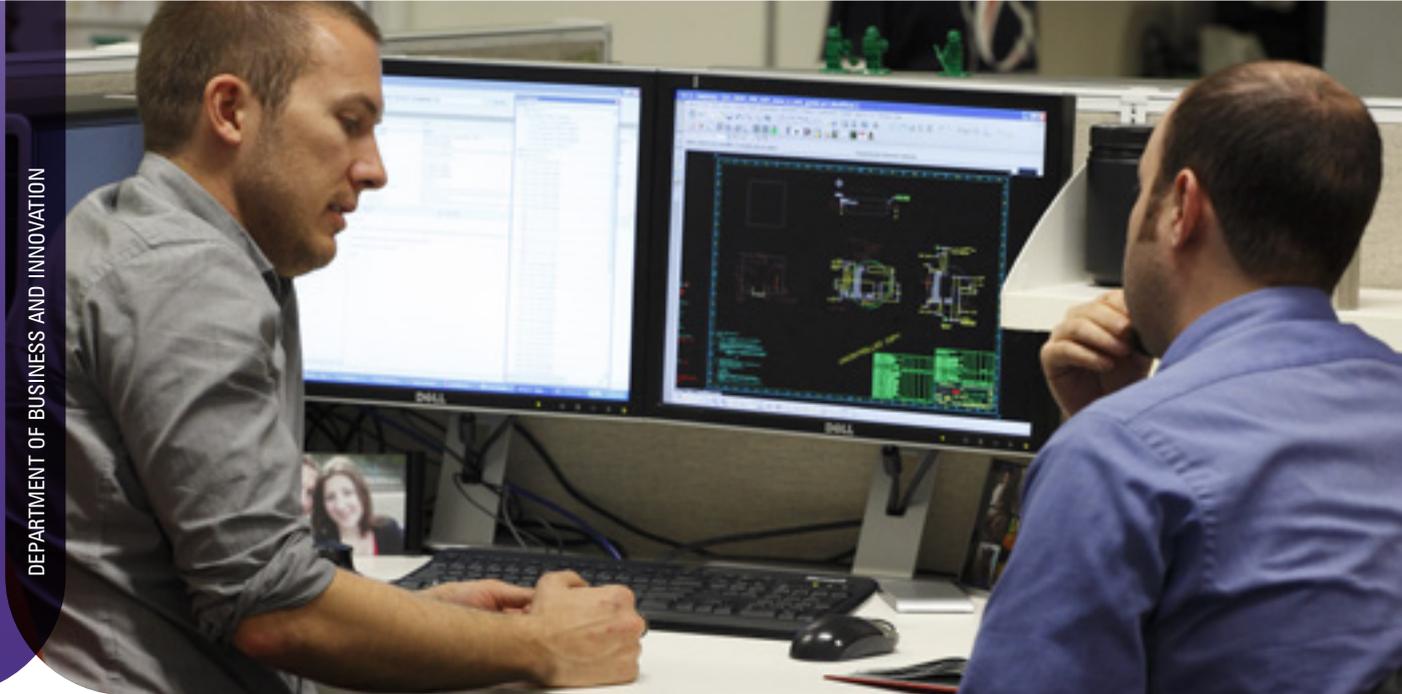


# Digital Futures Fund

Supporting innovative information and communication technology-led business solutions

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION



The Digital Futures Fund provides up to \$500,000 for collaborative projects that transform business practice and deliver productivity benefits.

## What are the aims of the fund?

The fund supports collaborative projects involving the development of information and communication technology (ICT) solutions that transform current business practices and deliver productivity benefits to Victorian small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Adoption of ICT has been demonstrated to drive productivity, innovation and improve the competitiveness of businesses. The program supports SMEs to overcome business challenges through the use of ICT by reducing barriers to specialist ICT resources, knowledge and technical expertise.

## What types of projects are eligible?

Applications are sought for projects to be undertaken in Victoria for a maximum of two years. To be successful, projects will:

- > assist Victorian SMEs to solve business challenges, such as limitations or constraints to productivity, growth or profitability, through the development and implementation of ICT-led solutions;

- > deliver significant improvements to products, services, business models and productivity;
- > demonstrate collaboration between Victorian businesses and relevant ICT companies, researchers and industry groups to develop solutions; and
- > commit to share project learnings with other businesses.

## Who can apply?

Projects must involve a minimum of three partner organisations, two of which must be Victorian non-ICT SMEs facing a shared business challenge.

Project partnerships may comprise a mix of private and public sector organisations including industry bodies and associations, community organisations, universities, TAFEs and public research and development organisations.

All project partners will have an interest and role in solving the identified business challenges and will be in a position to demonstrate the benefits to other Victorian SMEs. A lead organisation is required to submit the application on behalf of all project partners.

## What level of funding is available?

Applicants can apply for funding between \$50,000–\$500,000 (excluding GST) to support their projects. Applicants must contribute a minimum of 25 per cent of the total project value in cash (i.e. \$25,000 cash co-contribution for a project costing \$100,000). In-kind project contributions are also encouraged.

If shortlisted to proceed to Stage 2, applicants will be eligible for a grant of up to \$20,000 (excluding GST) to develop a business plan.

## How does the application process work?

The program involves a two-stage competitive selection process:

### Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Applicants submit an Expression of Interest outlining essential parameters of their proposed project. Applicants also indicate their interest in applying for a grant to assist with developing a business plan.

### Stage 2: Business Plan development

Shortlisted Stage 1 applicants are invited to submit a business plan for review that expands on project information provided at Stage 1 including project management details, partner roles, budget details, key project deliverables, milestones and proposed outputs.

Applicants successful at Stages 1 and 2 of the application process will be invited by the Department of Business and Innovation to enter into a funding agreement for delivery of the project.

### How and when can I apply?

Expression of Interest applications for Stage 1 close on Thursday 7 March 2013 at 2pm and must be submitted online at [business.vic.gov.au/dff](http://business.vic.gov.au/dff)

### Contact us

For more information including program guidelines and eligibility criteria visit [business.vic.gov.au/dff](http://business.vic.gov.au/dff) or email [dff@dbi.vic.gov.au](mailto:dff@dbi.vic.gov.au)

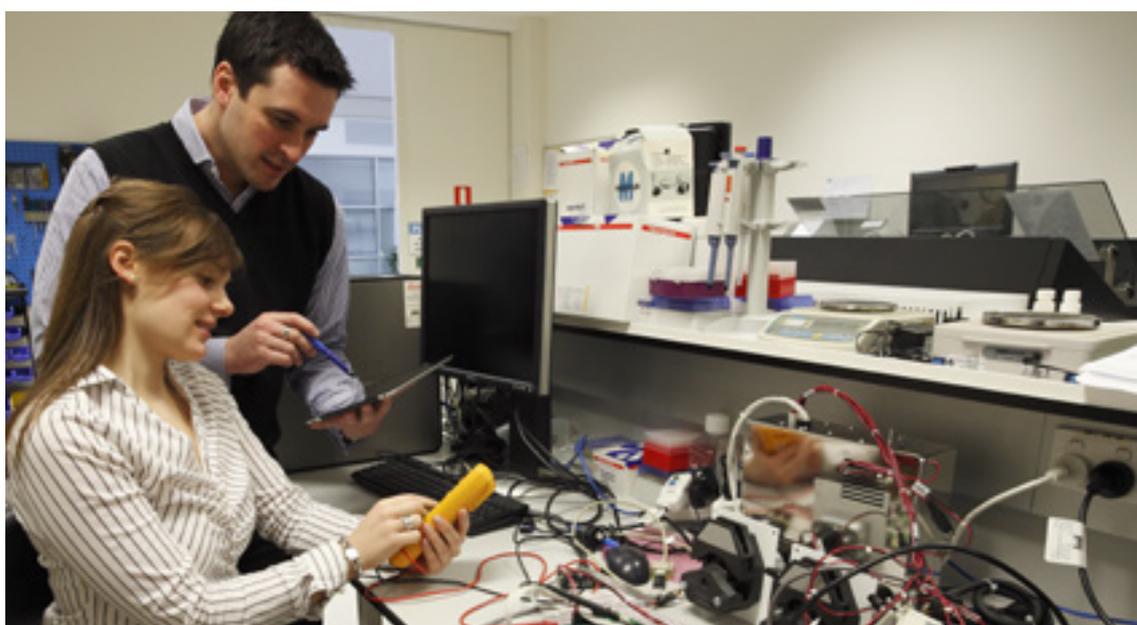


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