

GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The State Government's science strategy seeks to develop the State's research and development sector to support economic, social and environmental objectives as set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP). A key element of the strategy is to strengthen the State's research capabilities.
- 1.2 South Australia's Strategic Plan is a blueprint for the State's development and wellbeing, which guides government decisions on directions and investment. The SASP is underpinned by a number of strategic documents addressing specific issues of concern. Examples include: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy; the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide; Water for Good water security plan; Skills for All; the Information Economy Agenda and other plans for employment growth, economic development and environmental sustainability. Many complex issues are identified within these state strategies and greater research is needed to develop appropriate ways of tackling them.
- 1.3 The Government has also comprehensively reviewed where the State stands now, and has made decisions about where its focus needs to be for the future. From this process the Government has identified seven primary areas of focus for the government's forward agenda. They respond to South Australia's key challenges and community issues and are focussed on the long term future of our state. The priorities are:
1. Creating a vibrant city
 2. Safe communities and healthy neighbourhoods
 3. An affordable place to live for everyone
 4. Every chance for every child
 5. Growing advanced manufacturing
 6. Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all
 7. Premium food and wine from our clean environment.
- These seven priorities will guide policy and decision making by Cabinet and across government and define the legislative agenda and budget processes.
- 1.4 The intent of the International Research Grants is twofold: to support and facilitate South Australian scientific and technological research being conducted with an international partner and; second, to target research activities with outputs that directly relate to the State's seven priority areas and are of strategic benefit to South Australia.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the International Research Grants are to:
- a. Seek solutions for complex and significant problems of direct relevance to South Australia,
 - b. Support existing or facilitate new collaborative, leading-edge research activities between South Australian and international research organisations in areas of strategic importance to the State,
 - c. Facilitate access for local researchers to the global research and development system, including providing opportunities for the next generation of researchers,
 - d. Develop new and increase existing research capabilities and capacity within South Australia, and
 - e. Improve South Australia's research performance as evidenced by successful leveraging of Commonwealth, industry or other competitive research funding.

3. FUNDING RULES

3.1 Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Funding Applications under the International Research Grant will be accepted from South Australian based public or private research, educational, or other organisations (including universities, research institutes, and Commonwealth research organisations).
- 3.1.2 The organisation which submits the Proposal will be the Administering Organisation.
- 3.1.3 Have at least one existing or proposed international collaborative partner. This partner can be a public or private research organisation or institute, university or business with significant research and development capacity.

3.2 Level and Duration of Funding

- 3.2.1 The program will offer up to three grants annually for a term of up to three years, subject to annual reviews of performance against agreed objectives.
- 3.2.2 Funding, to a maximum of \$100,000 per year, will be available to facilitate and support the research work of the collaboration.
- 3.2.3 A list of activities ineligible for funding is included in section 8.

3.3 Co-investment

- 3.3.1 The Administering Organisation must provide matching funding for the Grant to a total value of \$100,000 per annum for the duration of the grant funding period.
- 3.3.2 The SA Government may customise its support depending on the specific circumstances and needs of the collaboration.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 Applications will be assessed competitively against the following criteria:
- a. The scientific and commercial merit of the proposed research activity including the potential of the anticipated outcomes to advance the knowledge base of the discipline; and the likely impact and commercial applications of the proposed research.
 - b. The alignment to State strategic priorities and Commonwealth priorities of the proposed research activity and the resultant ability to compete for national and/or international grant programs.
 - c. The capability of the project's participants, including how the collaboration will enhance the research capability and capacity of the Administering Organisation.
 - d. Research plan and budget.
 - e. Level of support for the research activity to be provided by participating organisations.
 - f. Details of governance arrangements, including intellectual property (IP) provisions.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 5.1 Completed applications must be submitted to the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology either electronically or by hard copy.
- 5.2 The Application should address the following:
- a. A focussed description of the collaboration, including:
 - i. proposed research plan and key performance indicators
 - ii. key objectives and anticipated outputs
 - iii. details of the collaborative partner(s)
 - b. A description of governance arrangements of the collaboration, and
 - c. Summary of funding commitments to be provided by the Administering Organisation, research partners and any other stakeholders/industry support for the Collaboration.
- 5.3 Proposals must be lodged with DFEEST by 14 January 2013 to irgp@sa.gov.au.
- 5.4 Proposals are encouraged to be lodged prior to the closing date.

6. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS

- 6.1 The selection process will be managed by the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.
- 6.2 Applications will be assessed competitively on their relative merit against the selection criteria set out in Section 4 above.
- 6.3 A Selection Panel will undertake the assessment of applications. The selection Panel will include at least one State Government representative.

- 6.4 Each party involved in the selection panel must declare any Conflict of Interest that exists or is likely to arise in relation to any aspect of the Proposals being submitted as per DFEEST guidelines.

7. FUNDING AGREEMENT

- 7.1 The awarding of the grant will be subject to a standardised Formal Agreement between the State Government and the successful Administering Organisation, detailing the terms and conditions.
- 7.2 Once advice is received of an applicant's success, the Administering Organisation must sign the Agreement within 30 calendar days. Once this date has passed, the State Government has the right to withdraw support of the application.
- 7.3 At the conclusion of the grant, there will be no expectation of continued funding from the State Government. Contracts will consider the circumstances of safeguarding State interests in the event of non-achievement of terms and conditions.

8. COSTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT

- 8.1 Grant monies cannot be used for the following activities and costs:
- a. Costs incurred before entering into the funding agreement
 - b. Purchase of office equipment, vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers
 - c. Software or hardware purchase or hire (unless it can be used only for the project)
 - d. Built infrastructure, utilities and administration costs
 - e. Staff recruitment and relocation costs
 - f. International travel and expenses for undergraduate and Masters students
 - g. Costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property
 - h. Hospitality / catering costs
 - i. Costs that are supported by the in-kind or financial contribution from the applicant or other participants in the project